

Box 1 AHC First Edition

Bag of photos 2 x 3 plate coins for 1st edition

1st edition before bound (in pieces)

Original typed manuscript

Typed manuscript with heavy editing marks (smooth copy)

Working typeset copy with some pasted in pictures

Working copy of paste-ups (note Breen credited in back and crossed out)

Paste-ups edition for 1st edition (Camera-ready) from Bru-El Graphics

Folder- manuscript and collaboration data

Contains correspondence from Munde, Munson, and Norman Stack with comments on sections of book as RSC sent to them. Notes on inside of folder also give timeline of material sent and phone numbers. Materials also sent to Norman Stack, WRT Smith, Reiver (page proofs of 1793). Paste-ups shown on 10/23/71 to Picker, CM Patterson, KP Austin, JJ Teaparty-Mike Berton 6/8/71 do not tell or show anyone the material. As you know I have been considering such a job for some time. Once April 15th arrived I dug in. the text is complete and the photos have been taken. I have contacted a printer.

11/6/71 The book is one hell of a lot more work than I ever dreamed. Just finished 6 hours of proofreading and have only 1 session when the “blue lines” are sent to me. The “blue lines” are the final proofs of the pages to be printed with the photos in.

12/8/71 the printing is done-all that is left is the binding which should be another week or 10 days.

7/12/71 to Munson please do not show the material to anyone You will probably note some omissions. They are usually controversial or too involved for the average coin collector to comprehend. The book is frankly aimed at the person who has been collecting for a number of years and has an interest in coins but needs to get into something else other than date collecting or “filling the holes in the album routine”.

9/4/71 to Norman Stack I am currently negotiating with a printing company in nearby Virginia and am planning for 4000 copies at a cost of approximately \$2 each. These last figures are of some concern to me as I wonder if 2000 copies can be sold in approximately 1 year. The book should sell for \$5 wholesale and \$10 retail or do you think these prices to low? The distribution and promotion of the book is something I would like to know if you are interested doing?

Answer no. 9/9/71 I hope you like my new title, and many thanks for putting my mind to work so that I have a title which, when abbreviated as AHC, just happened to be my wife's initials.

11/11/71 The printer has promised a delivery between 12/1 and /12/7 but I think 12/15 is more like it. I am enclosing final page proofs. Everyone connected with the book has agreed that the title change is one for the better. Many thanks for your suggestion. I plan a mailing to over 400 dealers in the last week in November. Retail will be \$15 with discounts for multiple copies.

The book's title of the manuscript sent to Munde in June was "The Little Half Sisters A Treatise on the United States Half Cent Coined from 1793 to 1857"

Invoices – 3 folders

#7 Hugh Campbell 11/23/71 I had been of the opinion there were only about 20 Half Cent cent variety collectors in the country. I had gathered this from correspondence as well as talks with various people in EAC. While I was working on the book I actually encountered opposition to the publication from at least 3 persons who felt that the book would sharply reduce their chances to cherry-pick.

#11 Eaton tell you all about the problem of going from an idea to the finished product. It isn't easy.

#18 Zambuto 10/18/72 mentions was at a shooting match, another interest of mine
Walter Breen, I'm sorry to state, has a very low opinion of me

#21 Raymond 12/2/71 Wishes RSC had seen his collection before the book Maybe your book will answer some of these questions for me

12/15/71 Here's the story on Walter Breen and Jon Hanson. Breen finished the book nearly two decades ago and was paid for the work (he was employed by New Netherlands Coin Co.) But before the book could be published, enough new information about the subject turned up to make parts of the manuscript obsolete. NN refused to publish until the manuscript was updated; WB refused to update until he was paid above the original price of the book. There it stands. About 5 years ago Jon had acquired a very small number of better half cents (some went to me and later to R. Munde, others are scattered) and he became interested in the series aided by WB's tutelage. Both of them would have liked to see the book completed but suddenly you, the usurper, popped onto the horizon. Nobody knew who you were, nobody knew whether anyone knew you, nobody knew if you knew anything about half cents. Remember, this sort of thing happened just a few years ago. John Cobb, a half dollar specialist from Mountain View, California had been working steadily on a book about his half dollars, 1807-1836. He had the coins and he had enough knowledge to make a reasonable effort. Suddenly Al Overton usurped the field by publishing his book. Discusses terrible Overton book. No one wants to see this happen to half cents. I'd rather that no book be published, and I've told you my reasons in earlier letters. But

as long as one must appear, then please let it be written, whether by one or by a group, from the state of knowledge as it stands today. Breen and Hanson don't want WB's book to be ruined by yours, and to that end they refuse to help you. Breen is the only person I know who could write the authoritative work on half cents. No one else has been fortunate enough to possess all the necessary prerequisites: Length of search, access to the coins, ability to assimilate what he sees, and a fine writing style. Others may surpass Breen in one or more areas, but only he has them all, with respect to half cents. Discusses help from Munde and Munson and where they learned.

1/9/72 RSC reply I have known WB for many years. I first met him in the coin shop of Ben Douglas here in Washington. He was accompanied by Tom Warfield of Baltimore. Douglas had offered me a 1797 lettered edge. Describes meeting and Breen seeing his collection and 1808C1. I consigned my collection to New Netherlands. Without going into detail, I will never again consign any coins to them for auction. The attitude of John Ford and Walter was overbearing and belittling. In addition, all of my coins except one were downgraded one full grade. Walter Breen and John Ford seemed to regard the consigner as sort of a country bumpkin. After selling my collection, my activity in coin collecting diminished. Realize I too have a very good recall, which as you know, is one of Walter's strong points. I would also like to point out that Walter knew of me. The fact that you were not privy to knowledge of me is certainly not my fault. I think you will recognize that my experience in half cents is long-standing. In the next few years I went on to collect other artifacts and left half cents to Walter, but kept an eye on what was going on. My writing, as you will see, is full of opinions but is not opinionated. By 1966 my interests changed back to half cents. Only Walter knows the full story of why his book wasn't published. I think basically it amounts to poor business judgment on Walter's part and the fact that he reaps considerable financial benefit from his knowledge. Describes others wanting him to write the book. In a previous letter to you I outlined the steps that I took, including attempts to establish a working relationship with Walter

1/31/72 Raymond discusses book and things he would have done

#25 Coin Dealer Newsletter mentions excellent review

#26 Frederick introduced Ungar to Half Cents cents

#34 Palmer 1/12/72 printer promised 12/1 raised hell when wasn't ready, then some pictures wrong bindery 12/22 On that day everyone too drunk to work, then xmas break for one week. Writing a book is quite a job. I carried it through all the steps- idea, research, writing, editing, proofreading, paste-ups, publication, and distribution.

What happened to Breen's book? Question I asked many times. I have known WB since 1952, at that time he was working on a book. I guess the best answer is that WB or John Ford just never got it to the point where they considered the book finished. About 2 years ago I reasoned that 18 years to put the book out was long enough. I attempted to get Walter to assist me but all I got was the verbal statement that he didn't give a "continental damn" what I did. In about 5 – 10

years I figure I will issue a revision with a condition census. I hope some new varieties show up. This will do much to either verify or repudiate my emission sequence.

#37 Sklar Numismatist ad

#48 Katman I'm just trying to break even with the book. Katman suggests a central clearing house for Half Cent data. Your idea of a clearing house for info is something I've always wanted and it looks as if I'll be it due to this book.

#50 Jesse Patrick RSC says criticism is the only way the work will get better

#63 postage 21 cents jobber rates

#78 Schmidt Coin World Review

#104 Chuck Furjanic

#112 R. Henry Norweb postage due!

#115 Grodon Wrubel

#123 Donald Salberg 9/6/72 While I have been collecting for some time, it is only now that I have been receiving mail from all over the country. When I actively wrote the manuscript I was writing my observations at that time (1970). Since that time the amount of information I have received has amended some of my observations. As in my book I want to share these observations with other half cent collectors.

9/16/72 Just within the last week I acquired a large collection of half cents. Actually I should say that I made a deal for them. I won't pick them up until 9/23. At this point I will have all 96 varieties which are listed in my book in my personal collection. However I will have many duplicates so I will be selling them off. I haven't decided how to sell them, fixed price list or mail auction. There are at least 300 to be sold and about 80 varieties in the group including some R6 and R7.

#146 Ernest Montgomery

#153 Jeff Oliphant

#154 Charles L. Ruby

#168 Bowers & Ruddy 10/6/72 Thank you for your wishes of success on the book. It has been a far greater success than I anticipated as I have sold over 60% of my first printing of 1000.

#175 Steve Fischer

#177 Jon Lusk

#180 Thomas Wolf

#187 C. Douglas Smith

#190 Joe Shulman 1/6/73 The book was written by me. I had it printed and bound and am selling it. I am a half cent collector. I wrote the book because I felt it was needed by collectors. My press run was very small as I am aware of the limited interest in the subject. I did not write

the book for the purpose of making a financial killing in the book business but rather to find out who is interested in Half Cents. I would rather sell one copy to a person who writes to me and says he wants my book than selling 100 copies to someone who is going to dump them on the market. I am not interested in having my book listed on a discount list at about 50% of retail. I am under no financial burden to dump the book and I will continue to sell until my printing is sold out.

#204 John Ward, Jr.

#205 Jim McGuigan

#218 Chuck Furjanic 9/5/73 another thing I want to comment on is the fact that even though you were very busy you took time to show Scott large cents. He is very proud of his collection and the envy of all his local friends who are coin collectors. Of the 64 dates he now has 31. He is also beginning to note the die differences so who knows he may eventually crowd out the old man.

#232 Clinton Hollins 12/4/73 You have no idea how cutthroat the book business is. My goal in publishing is to get data that has been kept for personal gain by such persons as Walter Breen and Jon Hanson. The book creates an informed buyer and seller. Actually it does a great deal to promote half cents but the Half Cent field is 20 years behind the large cents.

#246 Dan Holmes

#276 Gene Braig

#278 Chuck Heck the book was returned as undeliverable

#280 Gene Braig received defective book

#281 Joe Kane

#295 Bob Yuell 1/30/76

#305 Carvin Goodridge

#328 John Dirnbauer

#341 Ray Williamson

#366 George Ewing

#368 Henry Garrett

#369 Franklin Goss

#372 Phil Ralls

#379 Jim McGuigan 11/14/78 Going to visit Scott in Nevada this weekend.

#381 Tom Morley

#386 George Trostel

#388 Harry Edelman 1/26/79 I have less than 200 copies left of my press run of 2000, I can let you have one carton of 12.

#395a William Bareford

#405 Del Bland

#406 Jim Young

#408 Bill Luebke

#413 Syracuse Coin Co. 9/18/79 I have less than 300 to sell of the 2000 published in 1971

#425 John Fettinger
#427 Mike Demling
#432 Rod Widok
#437 Dick Punchard
#435 Theodore Micceri, Jr. 2/5/80 I estimate there are about 50 half cent collectors in EAC. Not all are very active.
#469 Frank Stillinger
#477 Bob Matthews
#479 Richard Shimkus
#485 8/27/80 have about 300 copies left
#488 Harry Salyards
#503 Henry Bergos 10/25/80 I have only about 200 copies left from my 12/71 printing of 2000. I do not believe any revision will go out for at least 3 years-takes too damn much time!
#522 Franklin Noel
#553 Doug Winter
#581 Dan Demeo
#583 Jerry Sajbel
#597 Bertram Cohen
#607 James Koenigs I am finally out of the first edition except for about 50 copies
#611 9/22/81 sorry for the mildew, but you are among the last 100 copies which have been in the basement since 1971
#615 Don Weinzapfel
#616 Jack Robinson
#625 Andrew Rosen 11/5/81 only 36 copies left
#631 Mike Packard 12/15/81 second copy
#632 Moses Johnson 12/7/84 had a few copies left
Miscellaneous-several mention seeing book discussed in Q. David Bowers article in Coin World dated 10/26 Also one mentions Numismatic Scrapbook ad on page 121

Note the number of referrals to EAC that RSC makes throughout his letters. Not WB.

1st Edition folders

Inventory record

Books on hand at various locations, distribution of free copies, monthly sales, and states sold to
1971-81 1972-362 1973-177 1974-159 1975-161 1976-299 1977-135 1978-41 1979-108
1980-143 1981-207 total 1873 plus 72 free copies

All states had books shipped to except Rhode Island, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada

Advertising

EAC 6/7/79 to Wright as far as the IRS is concerned, let's not do anything until we hear from them 7/30/79 since you insist on a stated "same as any other" rate for your PW ad, the bill is (reluctantly) enclosed

6/3/79 Your ad is almost an institution to EAC by now. As far as I'm concerned, you owe nothing for your ad. You've been continually more than generous with your time as well as your money (yes, we have record of your \$100 contribution to EAC this past December) We of EAC should be tickled with our bargain of your services for all our tax matters bartered for a half-page ad in each P.W. No, I haven't filed anything with the IRS. I was under the impression (please correct me if I am wrong) that filing was necessary only if income was over \$10K. Cohen wrote that he owed money for ad in PW, did EAC file in 1978?

10/2/77 EAC thanks you for your check and even more for your help in tilting with the IRS windmill. I would like to burden you with continued liaison with IRS should they decide to make any more waves in the future.

1/20/72 to Lapp Having been in your shoes in another organization (not in the coin collecting field) I know what you are doing. It's sure exasperating to have persons second guess you and nit-pick when you're trying to create a purse out of a sow's ear.

Numismatic Scrapbook

Coin World

The Numismatist

Reviews

The Numismatist May 1972 Review published letter 1/9/72 asking for review Please do not send this book to Walter Breen or Bill Raymond or Jon Hanson. Unfortunately, despite my long experience, I am currently being referred to as "the usurper". Therefore, I do not feel that any review by these persons would be objective.

EAC

Nations Capital Coin Club Bulletin

Numismatic Messenger

Coin Dealer Newsletter

Numismatic News Weekly

Coins Magazine

Coin World

Munde to Wright before Wright's review

Q. David Bowers column RSC letter 10/22/72 I wish to thank you for the compliments that you wrote about my "labor of love". I am particularly moved since it was you and your partner who

had done the last book on Half Cents. I just hope you don't find I was too severe I my comments on it.

Printing and Binding and Sales Tax

Folder on process of publishing 1st Edition

postage rates, examples of handwritten manuscript, final typed draft, typed draft with spacing, trial prints with plates, cover paste-up, next to final page proofs, print of trial page, trial chapter, paste-up, galley proofs, 1st page proofs, proofs, final page, proofs, copyright, Library of Congress application

Final page proofs from Bonnel 11/11/71, Blue Lines 1st 11/18, 2nd approved and returned to Goetz on 11/30/71, printed pages received 12/3/71, pages ordered to be redone 12/6/71, Cover printing received 12/7/71, Bindery picked up from printer on 12/10/71, on 12/14/71 bindery promises delivery on 12/23/71, Bindery delivered 25 copies hand bound on 12/22/71 – promised full delivery by 1/7/72 (lied to again) 204 copies showed up at 7PM, 1762 copies arrived 1/11/72

Folder with Supplement to First Edition

Box 2 AHC 2nd Edition

Plastic bag of 2 X 2 photos rejected for inclusion in text for various reasons

A couple of larger photos of edge lettering and a Talbot & Alum Cent

Plastic bag of 2 X 2 photos of plate coins used in 2nd edition

Owner of coin identified by initials on back

Folder of Presentation copies 2nd edition

300 regular bound, as of 7/1/82 173 sold, 45 complimentary copies which include 31 to collectors, 9 to publications for review, and 5 to LOC, copyright, EAC Library

20 Fabricate Bound, 8 given

20 Leather bound, 16 given

Folder of invoices for 2nd edition

There are 140 invoices for 189 copies of the book, all but two filled by 3/27/87. A few have letters or responses.

#12 Jack Beymer 20 copies this will be the only large order I can send you. I talked to Bert Acton who declined to distribute. Last week I sold an exclusive to Harry Edelman of New York who also has a partner in the Los Angeles area. Thus I am out of selling books for a 2 year period.

#41 Gregory Romans I have always believed that the ownership of a variety should be worth 2 points in a whist match with only one point added for higher condition.

#60 Robert Schonwalter From RS I am looking forward to meeting you at some forthcoming EAC meeting. Sorry our paths have not crossed so far. RSC replies You're not the only one who is sorry our paths have not crossed. Until this letter I did not know your address. I of course had heard of you via Gene Braig who met you at the ANA Convention in 1976 in NY. I was only able to spend one day there and not on the day of the EAC meeting. Milt Pfeffer had mentioned you as well. I would definitely like to see your collection. According to the records that I have kept for umpteen years you have a number of significant Half Cents.

#68 Larry Knee Your comments about motivating large cent collectors is interesting. Two years ago EAC set up a committee consisting of Loring, Wright, Reiver, and myself. Reiver has produced, Wright has redone Newcomb, while not a total overhaul I believe it's a step in the right direction. The missing name from production doesn't seem too concerned. Perhaps someone will write a book on 1793-1814 and end his preface the way I did in my first edition. He who procrastinates deserves to have his "Thunder Stolen".

#115 Gordon Wrubel I have not been able to locate Ray Munde. He's no longer an EAC member, the phone company has no listing for him in Birmingham. Do you have any ideas?

#115A Jon Hanson writes An obvious contributor (so noted) in the first, conspicuously missing in the 2nd- I still love US Half Cents cents (collecting and researching them) and want your autographed book for my extensive library. RSC replies I sure wish you had been a contributor to the 2nd edition. Only numismatics could benefit. However what does one have to do to enlist your cooperation and expertise! You have known for ten years that I was eventually going to put out a second edition. I have seen you at a number of ANA shows plus a number of other places in this ten year period. You have not even indicated the slightest willingness to SHARE your information. When I was in Long Beach in October you were quite reserved. If you had wanted to be a contributor to the 2nd edition you should have spoken up!! I'm sure that in the period since Long Beach when you and others so carefully pointed out that the business of publishing a book on Half Cents was to be a "sides" deal, that you have become aware of the number of Half Cent Collectors who had a great deal more information than you thought they did! Over the last ten years you were the only Half Cent Collector who did share information with me. I do not include Collins (Brainard) or Breen as Collectors. I have gotten letters from many persons. I have willingly given my time and efforts to create an atmosphere of FREE EXCHANGE of information. For some reason of your own choosing you have elected not to be included. So I hope you will now understand why you were not listed as a contributor. Depending on a number of things such as the outcome of which book is accepted by the collecting public will determine whether I put out a 3rd edition. Can I count on you as a contributor? I certainly think that Half Cent Collectors could only benefit. Perhaps the dream of many collectors of a joint effort may not be too far in the distant future.

Folders Relating to Publication of 2nd edition

Folder of Copyright and Library of Congress material

Folder of Printing and binding material

contains bills, invoices, and correspondence related to this

Herz-typesetter Henlieyu?-photography Goetz-shipping and printing Burrer-photo prints

Spencer + Kaye-copyright work Pfeffer-legal Norwitz-presentation bindings Belluci-graphics

Aperture-photos

Printing schedule- 12/31 pages and photos to Goetz, 1/7 1st blue lines from Goetz, 1/11

corrections to Goetz, 1/15 bluelines approved, 1/19 printing to be finished by 1/25, 1/25 picked

up signatures-Norwitz promises in 1 month, 2/3 to be delivered next week, 2/11 arrived- at Goetz

Norwitz I would like the following names in gold leaf on the cover of the leathr bound copies of

my book. They should be on the front cover, 16 copies with names, the other 4 copies without

names. Jules Reiver, R. Tettenhorst, Jim McGuigan, W. K. Raymond, Joseph Kane, Roger S.

Cohen Jr., Deborah P. Cohen, William R. Weber, Sam Ungar, Richard H. Gross, Ernest J.

Montgomery, Norman C. Stack, Del Bland, William Bareford, Jack Beymer, Eric P. Newman

Cost estimate work sheet

Folder of Research Working material

Notes on various topics used in revision of AHC

Folder on Marketing

EAC-several ads placed in PW

Bowers & Merena 11/16/83 Cohen asks to get permission to be quoted in their catalogs.

Bowers says he thinks reference books are to be quoted from. He then gives permission to quote without specific authorization provided the book is referred to. He is currently working on a 2nd printing of the second edition. I will write you when I'm ready to go to press and not before, as I consider myself a producer and not a promiser who never produces.

Harry Edelman distributor correspondence and agreement 3/15/82 Walter Breen's book was being touted at the convention and I got to read the manuscript. There is NOTHING in it that I don't have in the second edition and a great deal of it has been taken from my first edition. Jack Collins who was promoting it now says May 1st is the release date which is BS. It took me six weeks just to have mine printed and bound. May 1st is 6 weeks from now and his galley proofs aren't 1/10 done. Also Breen is writing more on mint errors. Collins hasn't finished photography and Jon Hanson hasn't completed his work on the Condition census which is at least 10 years behind the time. I don't see how they could release before September 1st. I am enclosing one of their flyers and a copy of how someone unknown to me reworked it.

Press release. Mentions CPA, Historian, collector for 35 years

Folder on Photography for 2nd Edition

List of coins photographed for 2nd edition and correspondence

Condition census of plate coins

1/23/82 Tett RSC Story about not bidding high enough on 1808C1 from Stack's because wife wouldn't leave unknown coin I know my data has its faults, but I am prepared to back up any conclusion I have arrived at. Past exposure with Breen either directly or via his "Charlie McCarthy" (Hanson) have met with icy stares and "How dare you question this" or "We know all the answers". They will also not back down gracefully when I have even pointed out to them errors they have made. I am also enough of an egotist to think that many years from now after I'm gone that I will be considered the more correct than my rival.

1/19/83 Weber There is something that I was told this weekend that I believe you'd be interested in as it regards "Jack Collins". I was told and I have not confirmed that Jack Collins is a cover for his real name of Chuck Brainard. The spelling of his name I don't know for certain but it's close. The story goes that Chuck got himself into a debit bind and owed many bucks he couldn't cover. He chose to leave the country and return as Jack.

Bareford

Reiver

Folder Pencil manuscript of 2nd edition, the initial rough draft

Written but not included for History of Half Cent Section (set in separate type) Breen Book
Subsequent to my writing the above paragraph in August 1981 it was formally announced in October 1981 that another manuscript was in the process of preparation. The announced publication date was stated to be “three months from now”. Since this is at least the third manuscript known to the author over a thirty year period and with a prior history of promises and no production it must be left to the future to determine the outcome of the latest announcement. (set in offset type) Conclusion The decade of the 1980’s has opened with what can be considered to be the high point of interest for Half Cent Numismatics. The author’s 1971 edition having been sold out and assimilated by the majority of persons interested in its subject matter had become outdated. As stated in the preface the outpouring of information has created the necessity for this edition. In October 1981 while type was being set for the edition the announcement of another book on half cents was made. There is an old cliché “history repeats itself”. Half cent numismatists were witnessing a repeat of the Ross-Gilbert rivalry of 1916. The author, at the suggestion of persons whose main interests was numismatics and not rivalry, crossed the continent to Long Beach, California in an effort to achieve cooperation and harmony. The outcome of my efforts can be determined by the fact that if you the reader are reading this in print, my efforts as well as the efforts of many others proved to be fruitless. Thus to the future I leave the verdict of the Cohen –Breen rivalry of 1981.

Letter from Bill Weber 9/22/81 Your letter to Jack Collins is published in the newest issue of “The Asylum” that I received yesterday. Breen explains his position and Jack has a brief comment. I don’t mean to spoil your day – just thought you’d like to know.
Completed section on “Other Half Cents”

Folder of reviews of 2nd edition

Folder of correspondence regarding 2nd edition and debut party

Yuell 10/17/83 questions on books 1st edition only regular edition on tan cloth, one printing of 1993 2nd edition 3000 regular printed, yellow cover, none presented 20 printed green cover, 8 distributed to those who supplied info, 20 printed brown leather cover, 16 distributed to persons who supplied coins for photos or took photos all texts are exactly the same
Reiver, Silberman, Braig noted that he was sorry he wasn’t invited to the book party, Eric Newman, John Bergman, Bareford, Picker, Lusk, Katman, Montgomery, Nessel (thanks for all your efforts and thanks for sharing your knowledge with the rest of us.

Folder of Work sheets on condition census for proofs

Folder of prints and negatives

36 envelopes with prints and negatives of coins taken for 2nd edition

1 envelope with prints and negatives for 2nd printing of 2nd edition

1st edition book of AHC, inverted cover, used as working copy for 2nd edition

Box 3

Miscellaneous items

Coinage of Americas Conference

folder of notes on Cohen's participation in this conference. It includes Roger's initial presentation ideas and detailed outline of his original topic "Planchet sources of the US Mint for the Coinage of Copper 1793 – 1803", his working and final copies of his talk, registration, attendees, program, his own composed biography, requests for edits, a dinner invitation from the Norweb's, and about 50 reprint copies of his talk "Original and Restrike Half Cents" as well as other correspondence related to this

Red Book Revision

folder containing correspondence and revisions of the Half Cent Section in the Red Book. The project was started in 1979 and completed with the 1985 Red Book. The folder contains the initial invitation to Cohen, his letter to other half cent collectors for their comments and those that were returned, and Cohen's correspondence with Ken Bressett about the change, as well as the 1984 Red Book section with the proposed changes and the 1985 Red Book with changes made.

Folder of "other collections"

Blaisdell (sent by Weber of list from Del Bland 5/19/74 that Bland graded), Tett, Bareford, Ray Chatham (sold by WRT Smith and many coins were obtained the year before from RSC in a huge trade), Eric Newman, Showers, Green/Tett, KP Austin, Sam Ungar, Ruby Hoard, Tett, Weber, Cogan, Guth, Tett, McGuigan

2/5/73 to Norman Stack Thanking him for copy of the Showers Collection which he loaned RSC. I am sorry that I may have caused you any trouble by showing it to "Big Mouth Raymond" but he is now in California and I don't think he will return for some time. I know it is almost impossible but I would like to see these coins at some time so if you get a chance you might mention it to the owner.

Letter from Tett to Wilkinson Because of your scholarship, I am enclosing for your use, and trusting your discretion with two closely guarded lists. One is the original Hanson write-up of the Showers collection, for which Flynn paid him \$2-3000, I am told. The other is a listing of the Half Cents in the original Col. Green inventory! I searched for years to find this! The collection was divided into two parts, presumably of equal value. The group on the left is the treasure-trove I found. My numbers are listed. Most of these you have seen, except for some that I traded. You can have some fun placing the others into the ownership chains before and since. Comparing the grades listed with the one's you assigned to the same coins may help with the ones on the right. So far as I know, you are the only one with this, although I may have

given Hanson a copy when he and Jack Collins photographed my coins. Please do not circulate the list. Regards, Tett

Folder with score sheets of whist matches

RSC vs Munde (6/17/72 and 10/31/70) and Munson (6/26/71) and PW articles about this
Score sheet of composed whist between RSC and Brobston
McGuigan/Cohen Whist match (9/9/82) with score sheet and JRM collection
McGuigan-Fischer-Guth 10/81
Summary of R-6 varieties in various historical collections created by RSC in 1972

Folder with correspondence with Robert P. Hilt, author of Die Variety of US Coins

5/12/81 I have read your letter as well as the book in the 48 hours since it arrived. I could write a long letter!! And perhaps I will do so now, so bear with me. I consider your work a first rate contribution to the unfolding body of knowledge about early US coinage which has been so long in coming. There are many reasons for the slowness of the publication of the knowledge. It is obvious to me that you did your work with no help from the person who for the last 30 years had tried to hold on to the information. I am of course referring to Walter Breen. I have known Walter for 30 years and there is so much I could write about him and his henchmen and his methods, I could turn out a 20 page booklet. It is obvious to me that you are not familiar with my book American Half Cents which I published in 1971, should you wish I can supply you with one. I waited for 20 years for Walter Breen to turn out his book on Half Cents. I finally got tired of waiting and did it myself. Living in Washington, DC I spent considerable time in the National Archives. I went over most everything I could get my hands on. I used this material as it related to Half Cents. There was a great deal on the precious metals and your work combined with that of Bob Julian, who I know slightly, certainly seems to tell their story. Copper coinage while at first similar to precious metals (the making of planchets) quickly changed to a process of just stamping purchased planchets. I found myself at odds with Walter Breen over many things from the archives. 1) On your "conversion table for die variety reference work" you note that Sanford J. Durst published a book in 1925 on early quarter dollars. Is this an error on your part of did that sleazy s.o.b. Durst put his name on Brownings work? I don't have a copy as I am boycotting Durst both as to purchases by me and sales of my book to him. 2) The "Sheldon rarity scale" which you give in your Forward is not Sheldon's original scale. The scale you have used is one that first appeared in Dr. Judd's book on patterns. This scale was dreamed up by Walter Breen to overemphasize rarity. This is a matter of personal preference, but I prefer Sheldon's original scale. 6) Your footnote for Penny Whimsy carries the publisher and date of Sheldon's earlier and better work Early American Cents. The biggest fault of Penny Whimsy is that Walter Breen is carried as a co-author and had succeeded in bullshitting Sheldon on the rarity of many cents. 7) I enjoyed your blast at Breen over the "yellow fever emergency" on page 6. My book is full of this type of thing only I am a little more charitable than you in the choice of my language. 11) On page 34, you refer to Lester Merkin's sale of September 18, 1968. I happen to have the

catalog due to the Half Cents it contained – mostly Richard Picker's. For your information the author of the catalog was none other than Walter Breen who was working for penny wages for Merkin at the time. Well, it has taken me 2 ½ hours to write this so I close now. P.S. Your mention of Don Taxay's book "The US Mint and Coinage" brings to mind the fact that Mr. Taxay obtained the majority of his information from Walter Breen. For many years Breen was his lord and master – they are bitter enemies now.

Folder on Col. E. H. R. Green Collection

Group of material, mostly collected by Frank Wilkinson, on the Green Collection and make-up, including Supreme Court decision on the case, Milt Pfeffer letter on how to get the material from Boston Courts, appraisal of Green Estate, Dillon Anderson letter, who was Anderson-Dupont with Eric Newman and Tett responses, and letter from 1988 detailing Newman responses among other things

5/25/88 It was great talking with you when I called last. I was quite concerned for you when I heard you had a heart attack. I'm glad you are recovering. Surely, someone must like you a lot!!

Folder with notices for coin shows

Folder with correspondence with Numismatic Literary Guild

Note on application dated 9/20/85 To hell with this group of jerks. How the hell they can award anything to Breen's bullshit book is beyond me!

Correspondence with NLG about their giving award to Walter Breen's book

1/18/86 Your letter to the Editor in the January 15th issue of Penny-Wise cannot pass without comment by me. I note you are a rather recent member of EAC but not so recent that all "Early Copper People" do not share your views of the EAC and the NLG, unless you are an incredibly naïve person. Dennis Loring's "ANA Diary" is an annual article which I, as well as other EAC members, look forward to each year. His style is refreshing and presents one knowledgeable persons viewpoint of a major numismatic event. If you feel that the NLG was slighted perhaps that is what the "Bash" deserved. Not being a member of the NLG I did not attend, but I did read the account in Coin World. From what I read I'm glad I wasn't there so that I avoided sitting through a long session of Walter Breen having his ego massaged. The "other short feature recording Honora received by EAC members during the convention" is another annual article for Penny-Wise, penned, I believe, by our editor Doc Lapp even though no by-line appears. The article, as in prior years, merely lists what happened and is not intended to puff up the ego of the recipients of various awards. Your letter to the editor, on the other hand, seems to criticize EAC for not massaging an immense ego. I note with a degree of irony that your list of recipients of the CLEMY Award includes Arlie Slabaugh. Please refer to page 9 of the book, which you sing such great praise, for Mr. Breen's opinion of Mr. Slabaugh. Perhaps the NLG should read the book before massaging the Egomaniacs ego! I am sir, your most humble and obedient servant.
Roger Stahel Cohen Jr.

2/1/86 I received and read with interest your communication of 18 January. I must observe that while my membership in Early American Coppers may indeed be of the "rather recent" date that you feel so obliged to note, . . . I have the highest respect for the organization and for its invaluable contributions to numismatic literature. My reason for writing Dr. Lapp was, I must remind you, "not for Breen's personal interest only, but for a better understanding of the NLG role in numismatic publications as well." I think it regrettable that an author of your qualifications has not become an NLG member long ago. Had you done so, I feel certain that you would have found our Bash of 1985 and earlier years to have offered far more to our members and the writing community than the hours of ego massage your letter asserts. NLG is the only organization in numismatics today that fosters excellence and encourages writers in fields as far apart as paper money, medals, tokens, US and world coins. NLG provides a much needed service on a broad front, and I feel no need to remain silent to slights directed against our activities. For the record, all NLG awards are decided by a jury of the participating writers' peers. The identity of the judges is a matter of confidence, but all are individuals of integrity, experience as writers and editors, and of a highly valued independence of judgment. It seems scarcely necessary to note that our judges do, in fact, carefully read all material submitted. In the spirit of independence for which they are known, the judges make their decisions without fear or favor. They do not hesitate to recognize quality at any time, not do they fear to tread on a few toes or the egos you so deplore in the process. Controversy has never deterred NLG, not even the feline vindictiveness and corrosive hatred which seems to swirl around the Half Cent literature. That massive egos abound in numismatics is all too true. That these are not confined to the winners of NLG Clemmy awards is obvious from the very fact of this correspondence. Such unnecessary invective and abuse as we see in the Half Cent field is not unique to that branch of our science, but NLG will not allow its work to be impeded by such feuding, however diverting it may be to the several participants. In closing, I am intrigued as an historian by the complimentary close of your recent letter. If as the wording suggests I have been called out in connection with this matter, I will exercise my prerogative as the challenged party to choose weapons. I suggest we meet at the Milwaukee ANA Convention, the night of the NLG Bash, and belabor each other at point-blank range with copies of the Breen Half Cent book, while standing in nine feet of water in the hotel swimming pool!

Folder with material related to American Numismatic Society

An acknowledgement of receipt of gift of his 2nd edition

Correspondence regarding Cohen working information booth for ANS at 1985 ANA Convention in Baltimore.

Folder of correspondence regarding Cohen's talk at New York Numismatic Club in May 1982

Folder with material related to ANA

An invitation to speak at 1987 ANA, which RSC declines

Letter as follows: Dear Mr. Hoge, In rereading my January 1983 Numismatist I noticed the article on the fact that your museum was missing certain Half Cents. Having been a member of ANA since 1947 and a Half Cent collector since that time I have a fairly complete collection. In addition to this I have authored the present standard reference on the subject. I would like to donate Half Cents to the museum but notice that your list in the Numismatist appears to be based on the Red Book rather than the varieties as set forth in my book. Will you please advise me as to which method you would wish me to donate under.

Letter acknowledging his donation of the Second Edition to the ANA

Folder of Half Cent Drawings

A group of Draped bust obverse date drawings

A detailed series of drawings by Butch Evans

Folder of Montgomery County, MD Coin Club Talk 10/18/72

A basic talk on Half Cent Collecting

Folder of Half Cent Surveys

Dated 7/31/87, January 1988, July 1988, October 1988, June 1989

For 7/31/87 notes collections not represented Tett, McGuigan, Frankenfield, Goodridge, Hanson, Kane, Weber, Lee, Cogan, Montgomery, Reiver, R. Senchuck, Beymer, Robinson, Travis?, Partrick, Leonard, Hess, Lusk, Borchardt, Young, Waingold, Naftzger, Peters, Baer
For 1/1988 Still missing B. Edison, McGuigan, Hanson, Frankenfield, Goodridge, Cogan, Montgomery, Reiver, Senchuck, Beymer, Travis, Peters, Baer, Naftzger, Partrick

7/1988 not represented Tett, McGuigan, Hanson, Partrick, Goodridge, Montgomery, Schoenwalter, Lillian Hooker, Beymer, Barry Abrahams, Katman, Reale, Pfeffer, John Borhek?
John Pittman, Martin Baer (sold ANA Sale 1989)

Folder of correspondence with Sanford Durst

2/9/78 I enclose a copy of Sanford J. Durst's ad in the February issue. In my opinion his ad is deceptive and misleading as to the status of my book. This book was published by me in 1971. I was not only the author and publisher but I am the sole distributor. I currently have a supply of copies available for sale. I could understand how it could be interpreted that the book was "out of print" however, Mr. Durst knows otherwise, and I enclose a copy of his correspondence to me on February 2, 1978. As a member of ANA (#14814) since 1947 I believe that our publication should not contain misleading or deceptive advertising and I bring this to your attention for whatever action you wish to take.

2/20/78 I have a carbon copy of a letter you sent to the Advertising department of the Numismatist concerning my recent ad. I think it is certainly not professional to send out such a

letter until you had checked with me in this regard. There is no question that your book is still in print, however we handle in excess of 800 titles in the numismatic field alone and errors can occur. 1) I can make a mistake 2) my secretary can type something on the wrong line by accident 3) the type-setter at the magazine can make a mistake 4) the proof reader can make a mistake 5) (added by Cohen to letter) you can deliberately raise the price by claiming "out of print". In no way was I deceptive or misleading and any statement to this fact by you is incorrect. PS In addition I think your postscript comments on my carbon copy were in poor taste and I believe an apology is in order.

7/19/78 While I received your not too pleasant reply concerning my order for books, I was contemplating sending it to the ANA and then decided to let it sit on my desk for a while so I could cool down. I thought I made it very clear that the listing of your book in one of the ads was obviously a clerical error and showed you that it was not my intent to so list the book. If I do not receive copies of the book, I will have no choice of course but to refer this to the ANA since I think it is in poor taste and also not especially good business practice.

Folder of Miscellaneous Material

Forbes Article on Real Estate

Stacks material- two Christmas cards and a letter from Norman Stack answering Cohen's letter complaining about the non-use of Cohen numbers in an 1983 Auction

A birthday card from his son

A 1987 dietary recommendations and weight reduction medical sheet and a check receipt from a dietician for diabetes management

"The 10 Best Things Anybody Ever Said"

Article "The Bronze Disease"

"The Bawl Street Journal"

Correspondence

Miscellaneous Collectors

Barry Abrahams, Ed Antz, Ted Amrowski, Gary Apelian, Jack Baan (pressing), Gary Begin, Pete Boisevert, Alan Brouhard, D. T. Broun, Richard Bruno, Mr. Buchinski, Joseph Cascia, Joseph Christie, J. H. Cline, Dennis Coffey, George Cores, Stephen Cunningham, William Easley, Jan Edeburn, John Fleisher, Stuart Fontek, Larry Forte, K. W. Fuller (pressing), William Gaede, Roger Geary, Bruce Getman, Robert Gill, Earl Gooding, Howard Gursley, Joe Hawkins, Lewis Hamlin, Roger Hurlburt, Obert Huffman, Jim Koenigs, Joel Klein, Ken Leiker, Aleck Loker, Jim Long, Lee Madsen, Noel Marks, Don Matthews, Robert Matthews, Steve May, Owen Merwin, Ted Micceri, C. P. Miller, Dan Mowles, Harold McQuaid, Richard Nadeau, William Nessel, Howard Nitzberg, Stephen Nolan, Gordon Owens, Andrew Pollack, Quality Sales Corp.,

Roy Rouch, Andrew Rosen, Dennis Rynes, Richard Schlecht, Marc Schoenbrun, Franklin Seacord, Robert Shaw, Donald Salberg, Doris Sheffer, Warren Smith, Stanley Starsiak, Terry Stahurski, Henry Stouffer, William Stratton, Walter Terleski, Allan Voss, C. Richard Vitale, Dick Wagner, Les Wall, Al Wardle, Tim Weimer, Bernie Weisburgh, Kenneth Wilson, Keith Wolfe, Bob Younglof, Ziporah Zeiderbaum

Antz 11/16/83 As I stated in my book I wish to hear from persons and I have no problem in answering any questions. Nor do I charge fees. I haven't been overwhelmed with inquiries.

Baan 8/13/81 I started collecting US Large cents and half cents about a year ago when I came from Spain, where I lived about 20 years (I am now 68). As you can understand I do not know that much of the lovely coppers, but every day I learn more.

Coffey 11/30/83 Thanks for the phone call today. I appreciate hearing about new finds. This is the way that all of us will learn about Half Cents via the pages of "Penny-Wise".

Easley 10/22/88 I am starting to do a bit as a coin dealer. I am retiring from my accounting practice but I want to stay busy thus my new role.

Edeburn 11/29/73 I admire your knowledge and initiative required to publish your new book. It is a step forward and should greatly aid the Half Cent beginner and advanced collector too.

Gill 3/8/79 The appreciation is for the marvelous job you did on your book. It is so much easier to use than any other specialized coin reference, that collecting Half Cents has given me the time of my life!! I use Crosby, Richardson, Maris, Miller, Sheldon, and Newcomb (ugh!) etc. and none of them are much fun. I'm sure you kept in mind all the limitations of the above and others and it sure shows!

Gill 5/28/79 My work is overloading in the period January 1 to May 15th. I'm an accountant and everyone has to have their tax return done and it takes me a month to catch up. Yes I did keep in mind how hard some of the earlier reference books were to use when I wrote "American Half Cents". More than one coin I gave up on in disgust, usually low-grade though. I thought of this problem when writing. Most people can attribute low-grade from my book.

Gursley 6/17/73 In case you want to write to Walter Breen his address is Box 352, Berkeley, CA. 94701. I would suggest that if you write to him that you enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope to return your photos as he is well noted for not answering correspondence,

Hawkins 11/25/82 From the address you sent this letter to I assume you are referring to the First Edition. However I am sold out of copies of it. I have since published a 2nd Edition which I am not selling as all copies were purchased by a distributor.

Hurlburt 3/12/73 I'm sorry it took me so long to answer but at this time of year I work 100 hours a week.

Huffman 12/23/83 series of letters discussing his discovery of only 2nd known 1794 C5b

Klein 11/18/81 The Nov. 15th 1981 PW also has an ad by my competition which you may find interesting. I just hope they can live up to their claims!!

Loker 9/5/73 From your description and photographs it appears that the double reverse copper disc which you have is a mint product. Based on the assumption that it is a mint product I'll set forth what I think. Half Cents at the time of their coinage were not only the coin of least

denomination but they were apparently considered the least important. There are many double strikes and various other “errors” which seem to me to be intentional. However this is the first specimen that I’ve seen with two reverses. What has happened is as follows. A large oversize planchet was selected by a pressman and put in a press with the reverse die in place but no obverse die. A piece of leather was placed over the side of the planchet which would normally receive the obverse die impression and the pressing made. The pressman then flipped the planchet which now is a one-sided strike and repeated the process thus giving a double reverse struck planchet. The first side struck underwent a slight flattening thus accounting for the fact that Half Cent cannot be read on one side. The wear from circulation would cause this. Why was this done? I don’t know but as in the last paragraph I can guess. One reason would be to make a die trial of the reverse die. The obverse die used with this reverse was used with another reverse prior to its use with this reverse. There are other pieces known which seem to be die trials from this period but they are usually uniface (only one side struck). A second reason is just that the pressman wanted a conversation piece or a flip coin with the basis of “Tails I win”. Perhaps I could see it at your home as I occasionally go to Point Lookout to spend the day on the beach.

Marks 10/3/84 The Breen book gives the #3 variety the full treatment as a variety. This should be expected as Walter is never one not to take a bow. However the variety photograph in the book is a composite of the obverse of the first specimen listed on my enclosed sheet and the reverse of the 3rd specimen. The fact that it’s a composite photo is not mentioned in Walter’s book.

Don Matthews 9/27/83 The “bottom line” in the acquisition of a collection is “are you satisfied with what you purchased.” A person sometimes has doubts in looking back but don’t do this. If a coin no longer satisfies you either sell it or replace it, however don’t be too picky when it comes to Half Cents. Another thought I might add is don’t fret over coins you reject over pricing or grading. I could fill another book on “the big one’s that got away”. In time this will rectify with later acquisitions. Jim McGuigan and I have known each other since he identified in 1973 from my First Edition the coin pictured in the 2nd edition as 1808 #1. He of course traded the coin off due to its value. I told him this was a mistake, and as of now is one of the 9 varieties he is missing from his collection. As a dealer he is unusual in that he doesn’t need to sell coins for the usual reasons a dealer does. Although a high grade coin for his collection may cause him to sell. You will find him to be an excellent grader and totally ethical in his dealings. His prices are in keeping with the current market and are subject to very slight negotiation which is usually better done on a face-to-face basis. I spoke to him after I got your letter and he said he would send you a price list. If you’re going to buy from him I recommend that it be face-to-face for any very expensive coins but for more moderately priced Half Cents the mail is ok.

Mowles 1/14/74 I had an experience of this nature about five years ago at a new local coin shop. I was shown a well-worn (Fair-3) low head 1797 with the notation it was a lettered edge (my #3B). I looked at the edge and couldn’t see any letters. I did see what is photographed in my book for variety 3c. I then asked the price. The seller replied that it was \$175 and that no

lettered edge sold for less. I then explained that the words Two Hundred For A Dollar should be on the edge. He then replied “well the coin was in low condition and that the letters had worn to the state that I saw.” I will add that I’ve seen worn discs with almost nothing visible obverse or reverse but the edge lettering is still there. Thus I purchased my 1797 C3c. The Half Cents by Superior were catalogued by Walter Breen who has said for 22 years that he was writing a book on Half Cents. He’s one of the persons I refer to in my preface. Anyway Walter completely ignores my book and uses Gilbert numbers only. This is fine as most Half Cent collectors only know Gilbert numbers.

Nitzberg 8/6/82 The various aspects of coin collecting are intriguing and I enjoyed our brief chat on the values, both extrinsic and intrinsic, which concern us. Perhaps a book of essays on the “metaphysics” of minting and collecting would be welcome to veterans and initiates alike. Open-ended problems dealing with the ideal coin, accidents, rarity, etc. can shift the collectors perception to deeper, subtler perceptions and relationships.

Pollack 5/24/79 Your article on edge lettering on cents and Half Cents in the recent Penny-Wise was of course of interest to me. I too have wondered if the large cents used different dies on the edge but frankly I haven’t compared mine for differences. Nor do I think that many others have. If they have I’ve seen nothing on it. I believe it’s an area that could stand some investigation; however with the area of Half Cents more has been done than you may realize so I’ll outline a bit of what’s happened. I’m sure that you realize that the edge lettering being separate from the impressions did not necessarily occur at the same time. Present thinking being that once the planchet was lettered it was put in a receptacle which was used to feed the coining press. There is no evidence to believe that once the planchet had the letters on it was immediately fed to the coining press. Actually the evidence is exactly the opposite. Notice that variety CMM#1a of 1794 is much more common than CMM#1b and just the opposite on the others. Die evidence places the #1 combination as first for 1794 to an extent but the majority of the strikes being of the large style lettering sort of reinforces the placing of this variety first. After the planchets were lettered and placed in a receptacle they were more like a “coal pile”. Accountants, of which I’m one, have this problem. Assuming you are not an accountant, I will outline them. First is FIFO, which stands for First In, First Out. This says if items are acquired for use then the first items are used first. Second is LIFO, which stands for Last In, First Out. This says the last items acquired are the first used. Both of these methods are used in accounting to solve a very pesky problem which is how do you identify what is actually done? Short of keeping track of each item individually which can be unreasonably involved. The solution only makes sense to accountants to force an answer to a problem. The “coal pile” idea is if coal is piled up how can you identify which piece of coal was acquired from who and when? Even more complex would be in the case of an oil tank which has different amounts put in at various times. When oil is taken out how can any particular amount be identified as coming from any one shipment into the tank? In short you can’t. What this all means is that there is what I call the FUBAR method, Fouled Up Beyond All Recognition, which is what we have trying to tie tags to the lettered planchets back in 1793 to 1800 on copper coins. It is my opinion that the press operator just

picked up a handful of planchets for the denomination he was striking without regard for the edge lettering. Nor did he look to see if the edge lettering was up or down in relation to the obverse. He was doing his job which was to strike coins. I also don't believe he checked to see if the edge was lettered, as I have a number of 1794's which I believe were lettered after they were struck. These coins have raises in the denticle area where the letters are on the edge. Even this didn't always happen for example an example of 1795 CMM#1 is known with a plain edge. As I stated in my book I believe it's possible that the 1795 "Gilbert 2" exists despite S. H. Chapman's delisting of it in the Alvord Catalog in 1924. Now to some more notes I have. The 1794 Small Edge lettering deteriorates in that some of the letters lose their lines i.e. an E becomes F in Hundred. This is seen on #7, #8, and #9 but not always. When I wrote American Half Cents I knew of only two 1794 varieties i.e. #1 and #2 with both types of edge letters. I was not aware of the writings of Commodore W. E. Eaton in the November and December 1921 issues of the Numismatist where he wrote about the fact he had what is now known as 1794CMM #4b and CMM #5b (large edge lettering). The 4b was rediscovered by W. K. Raymond in October 1973, needless to say it was a coin I had seen but hadn't examined the edge of. When this happened I predicted that the #3b had to exist. Sure enough Richard Gross found it in February 1975. I was asked for predictions on future varieties and I said #5b had to exist. I based this in the revised 1794 emission sequence I have worked up i.e. 1 2 5 3 4 6 7 8 9. W. K. Raymond found 5b in August 1975 and again I said it was probable that 6b existed and maybe 7b, 8b, and 9b. 6b showed up in October 1976. No new discoveries since then, however. I'm sure you realize that edge lettering had to do with both the predictions and the discovery. The edge lettering on 1795's is different than the 1794's. You may have noted this so I mentioned this on Page 13 of "American Half Cents." Also you should note that no Half Cents were struck from September 1794 to October 1, 1795, a period of a year. So it's rather evident why 1795's have a new style of edge letters. The weight change to 84 grains which eliminated the edge letters has been the subject of some writing by others. Most of it is a lot of B. S. to me. Again I think the mint used up the planchets which had been lettered and then went to the thinner ones. The exact date of the change cannot be determined but it's safe to assume it was not before December 28, 1795 and was not after February 28, 1796. You might read what I wrote on page 17 of American Half Cents. The 1797 lettered edge is a whole separate field. I have a lot of observations on the subject which I won't take the time to write out but if you'll read pages 24-26 of AHC. You will see that I believe these were coined in 1800, however I doubt the edge letters were done in 1800. Well, back to the original premise which I noted in your article. I think it can be said that edge lettering has been used for determining some of the emission sequence of Half Cents but not to any great extent on large cents and perhaps you will be the one to explore and investigate this area. By all means write up for "Penny-Wise" what you find out. In this way you can help all of us as we try to find answers to questions about our early copper coinage.

Quality Sales Corp. 12/2/72 Dear Mr. Cohen or Kreisberg I also want to comment on the cataloguing of the Half Cents I received. Even though I only got 2 lots, the coins received

matched the catalogue descriptions. It's been a long time since this had happened to me. I would say that the cataloguing of the Half Cents is the best I've seen in some time; however I do have some comments. 1) Whoever wrote up the Half Cents used "Breen Numbers". I have never seen any published work on Half Cents in which these numbers are set forth. While these numbers have been used in prior sales catalogues I have always felt that their use was and is a little ridiculous as I consider them to be only a figment of Walter Breen's mind. No one can go to a book and say that Breen 53 is the 1808/7 with the new reverse or is it the Regular 1808/7 (G-1) or is it the 1808 G-2? Thus I believe your catalogues could be improved by dropping the "Breen Numbers" as superfluous. 2) The rarity used for the Half Cent Varieties appear to be copied from previous catalogues written by Walter Breen. There is much more up-to-date data on this subject in my recent book. I might also add that in the last year I have gotten even more data and rarity has decreased for 7 varieties. As a general rule rarity can only go down as many previously unknown specimens have turned up as a result of my book 3) I noted a mixture of data concerning a number of varieties. The data came from my book and auction catalogues written by Walter Breen. I have determined that most data set forth by Breen which is not in my book is based on suppositions by Breen and not supported by papers in the National Archives. The inclusion of this data in your catalogue does a disservice to the Half Cent collector who wants the facts and not the fables 4) The designation of "Cohen" for the Half Cent varieties is in error. The correct designation is "CMM". If you will refer to page 103 of my book you will see this set forth. In addition the copyright notice opposite Page I of my book refers to the Table of Equivalents on page 103. The reason for the "CMM" designations is to recognize the contributions of Ray Munde and Paul Munson to the book. Also G + C are often mistaken in handwriting. These comments on your catalogue are really very small but I consider them to be matters of some importance to a Half Cent Collector. However as I stated earlier the cataloguing was excellent and keep up this kind of work and I'll always pay attention anytime I get a "Quality Sales" catalogue.

Rough 11/29/73 To me a true AU50 is the best grade since most red seen today has been artificially put on and as time goes on it disappears. I have done some research on the Proof-only's but frankly only to prove that they for the most part are only strikings made in the late 1850's and 1860's to satisfy collector demand for non-existent dates. I do not agree that the Large Berry reverse is the Original reverse. If you will note the circulation strikes are all small berry reverses. I think it is possible that a few proofs were made in the 1840's but which reverse die was used I don't know. I'm sure you realize that I'm "turned off" by the so-called rare proofs.

Rosen 10/23/81 I believe the 2nd Edition will be substantially different than the first edition of AHC. The only change in varieties are the 4 additional edge lettering ones of 1794. The new edition will have a revised rarity for many varieties and a condition census. Also all photos are being replaced. The basic format remains the same, however the changes have made it so that all the type must be reset. The price will be in the neighborhood of \$35 due to printing costs. I now have only 36 copies left of the First Edition and no more will be printed.

Salberg 9/22/72 In the coin collecting field there are a great many collectors and dealers who use the BS system of grading. BS doesn't mean exactly what you think it does but you should always keep your original thought in mind. The BS system is that you BUY at a lower grade and SELL the coin at a higher grade. This of course is confusing since there are different systems of grading that are established. I personally use the Sheldon system. This system is set forth in Dr. Sheldon's books "Early American Cents" and "Penny Whimsy". The Brown and Dunn system does not work on copper since it only considers wear. On a copper coin color has a great deal to do with the grade, also corrosion on copper is not the same as on nickel, silver, or gold. As far as "Photograde" is concerned it cannot be relied upon at all. In my opinion the specimens illustrated just are a further lowering of standards from Brown + Dunn which was a lowering from the Sheldon system. Perhaps I seem to be very conservative when it comes to grading but remember this is my opinion. When purchasing coins I disregard what the seller calls the condition. I make my own evaluation and compare the price. If it's acceptable and I can afford it I buy, if not I pass. In selling coins I put down what I consider the grade to be and let the prospective purchaser make his own evaluation.

Seacord 8/30/83 My early coppers are stored in 2 x 2 envelopes and cotton-lined pouches

Shaw 6/27/73 I am an accountant in public practice and the work load in the first six months of the year is overwhelming. I am just now beginning to get back to normal. The 1797 lettered edge presents an immediate question: why was the edge lettered? Despite my interest and ownership going back to 1952, I still don't know!! Others have made guesses such as it was an experimental issue or planchets previously lettered in 1795 or 1796 when the mint changed to 84 grain planchets were used up etc. I have studied the basic question and the more clues I get the farther I get from an answer. The gripped edge which is struck with the same dies just confuses the issue. You may have much more up-to-date information than I have. I am sending you this information because I feel that information of this type should be made available to anyone who is interested. I do not subscribe to the theory of giving all your information to one person who will use it to write sales catalogues and not have the courtesy to give you the time of day. I'm a little bitter about this as I suffered under this for 20 years and I finally got fed up.

Stahurski 9/11/89 Walter Breen's discussion of this matter of the bolt theory of the spiked shin if you will note, is dated from a 1965 discussion with Paul Munson. Breen being a copier did not revise nor even think about the subject matter until time arrived to put it into the "Big Pile of Red Trash". In 1970 when I was working on my first edition Paul Munson said the bolt theory just didn't hold together.

Starsiak 11/1/73 I could write pages about this, but I suppose you would get tired of trying to read my scrawl. I've never learned to type.

Stouffer 4/5/77 As far as Norm Rosen is concerned I haven't seen his "Investment Analysis". He called me when he was working on it but I didn't want to give information that someone is just going to sell. I enjoy the Half Cent field and I don't want to help those who are only speculating in coins. My sympathies lie with the collector and giving as much information as I can on everything except price.

Terleski 1/6/73 It is no imposition at all to attempt to answer questions about Half Cents, but I know what you mean by your statement. I too have written to authors of numismatic books and never received a reply. This has also happened to me in writing to persons who put into print that they were working on numismatic books. No, I attempt to answer all my correspondence.

Wardle 8/31/72 I'm glad you liked the book. I've gotten some criticism over the coins pictured and the fact that I didn't list a condition census. Currently I'm trying to put this info together so I can issue a supplement which I plan to distribute at no or small cost to persons who have the book. Your comments on the 1808/7 are interesting. I do not keep a record on this variety below VF as it has been my experience that its fairly plentiful. I have 10 specimens ranging from fair to Very fine. However most of them are only good or very good. The die state with the rim break is usually seen on very rough planchets. I have 2 of them and the highest condition coin I know of is fine. Perhaps most of the 8/7's were put into circulation in this area. I have noted that some varieties seem to be more common in certain areas. For example 1809 CMM#2 is quite plentiful in this area while 1809 CMM#6 is almost never seen. I've only been able to purchase 2 of CMM#6 at local shows but after I got up to 15 of CMM#2 I just quit buying them unless they were fine or higher. I think that my observations are fairly valid particularly when it comes to low grade specimens. These just don't seem to move around as the high grade ones do, and of course the Half Cents were circulated in the eastern United States. I understand that they are seldom seen in local shows west of the Mississippi.

Younglof 6/11/87 Sorry it was necessary for you to write to me about the Alvord catalog which you loaned me in 1984 – not 1985- time sure does fly. After reading your letter with the terms of your offer I must decline and return the book to you. Yes an original Alvord is scarce but a reprint is available. Your copy has been rebound; an original was a saddle-stitched paper catalog. It is these copies that bring the prices you quote. Your copy however does have a plus in that it is hand priced with the buyers name. Also if you could document its ownership that would be a plus.

Adams 1/18/74 to Adams on emission sequence controversy in P-W “Don't worry about upsetting apple carts. I've been doing it for years with the intention of getting persons to think for themselves and not blindly follow the great leader.”

Adams 7/27/81 comments on Adams article on “Woodward vs. Frossard” in issue. Received copy of Vol. I, Number 243 of “The Asylum”. Encloses copy of letter to Jack Collins. Do you think that in 50 to 100 years copies of my letter will be sangent? I admit I came down rather hard but the deception is glaring to me.

Austin, K. P. 11/18/73 In accordance with our conversation yesterday I enclose a copy of my article on the Half Cent rarity and condition census which appeared in the latest issue of Penny-Wise. Since you don't have a copy of my book yet I've indicated the Gilbert numbers. As I requested I would like to visit you and see your Half Cents. I know of your long interest in the

series as I remember your ads in the Scrapbook back in the late 1940's. I will bring a copy of my book when I visit you or if you prefer I can mail one to you. My work makes it so that I must visit you before January first as I will be unable to make the trip until after April 15th. I'm a public accountant and the preparation of Income Tax returns makes it so I just can't enjoy my hobby for 3 ½ months a year.

Baer 2/8/80 The best way to tell the large letters from the small letters is not my book illustrations. Try this: the spacing between D + R is wide on small and close on large.

Baer 6/15/80 requests transcript of Cohen's discussion at EAC Educational Forum just over

Baer 12/11/81 Despite my efforts the book won't be out until January 15th. Need for special photos etc. In the last three months I have seen so many super coins that when I look at my coins I wonder how I could have gotten so many low grade coins for my own collection.

Bareford 1/29/82 The book has been printed. I picked up two copies which I had to fold and trim so I could see the final product. The binding seems to take the time. The regular copies are promised in 2 to 3 weeks from 1 week ago. The presentation copies are being bound by another binder here in Washington. Again they promised 2 weeks but I doubt it. Jules told me over the phone on Sunday that my competitors were to see you soon so they must be at least two months behind their announced February 1982 publication date. All I hear is rumors and like everyone else I wonder what will be published.

Beymer 10/6/81 I must thank you for showing me your Half Cent Collection. I didn't realize that any dealer collected. This past weekend was one of great learning. I think I saw more nice Half Cents than at any show. I also appreciate you breaking the ice with Walter in your discussion of my 1800. The thing I have come to realize is that while new to Walter it was kind of old hat for me. I also appreciate your offer of \$1000 for a joint effort. I believe Walter is again being used by certain people for what they think will be financial gain. My book has been a good tax loss but I have never promoted it. The Second Edition, which will be out in December, will probably not be sold by me. I intend to give it to a distributor.

Beymer 1/15/82 I think it is an excellent article and I wish more people would write like you did without asking for my comments before publication

Bilancia 11/29/78 I like you was starving for information on Half Cents when I joined EAC in 1968, and if you have my book in the introduction I outline a little of my collecting prior to its publication in 1971. The thing that moved me to write is also covered in my introduction, but unlike you there was no Half Cent data that had been put out by EAC. Actually there was a great hiding of information. Only Walter Breen and a few of his disciples had some information. What I have done is to encourage persons to write and contrary to previous conditions I will not serve as a censor. Nor do I wish any one to ask my permission to write any thing they want to (this had happened). In short I believe in a Free Press and the exchange of ideas and

information. I also believe that errors in persons writing would be corrected unless it's a Herculean task. Guth's survey was good but there were at least 3 large collections that did not respond to his request. Nor do I list chain of ownership (I do not like the term pedigree as I think this only applies to dogs) even if I know it. Bill Raymond is very interested in Half Cents but essentially he's a dealer. Dealers may be interested in coins but the profit motive is more important. Bill has had collections in the past but not now as he has decided that the lure of the \$ is greater. This is not to say that useful information cannot come from him but to remind a person that he is selling something and that is uppermost in his mind.

Bilancia 1/1/79 Today is the day which I must turn my efforts to my accounting practice and let coins slip back for a while. Why do you as a new collector prefer Gilbert Numbers? It has been my experience that new collectors almost always use CMM (not Cohen) numbers. This I believe is due to the fact that most new collectors have my book. Why in the hell do you put the "Made to order discs" with the word Half Cent on them on a par with real coins? I speak of the Proof only and restrike varieties which are an example of what I consider to be a fraud on collectors dating back to the mid-19th century. However as I stated in my letter to you I am not a censor. You are free to put out whatever you want to. The only problem is that what you put out, no matter how screwed up, will present me with problems in the future. Knowing where the BS comes from and how it was arrived at make it easy to prove that it is just a lot of BS.

Bilancia 1/27/79 It's hard to put Half Cents down when thought provoking items like your printout arrive so I'll dig in. I cannot furnish data unless I am given permission to give it out as many persons have given me data in confidence and I have not broken it. As for more data I suggest you get in touch with W. K. Raymond. He had quite a bit of contact with G. Jon Hanson who together with Walter Breen were the persons who were sitting on a lot of Half Cent data 10 years ago. However, I believe most of the Breen-Hanson data is obsolete. These two have always referred to me as the "usurper" since I wrote the book they had been promising to write for 20 years. As you note, I make full use of my Bullshit Stamp. It says a lot to me.

Bilancia 9/9/80 His Price list Cohen doesn't like. I do not believe that Half Cent Collectors are the patsies you consider them to be. It is apparent to me as well as others your love for half cents is much less than your love for the almighty \$.

Blaisdell 11/18/73 Many thanks for your invitation to view your Half Cents. I am sorry it has taken me this long to respond. As I told you last Wednesday any Saturday up to January 1 is ok with me. Just let me know what time I should be at 10 Adams St. on the date you select.

Bland 6/24/73 I have heard from various sources that you acquired Hugh Campbell's as well as Dr. Sartori's collections of Half Cents. I have purchased some of these coins after they have passed through W. K. Raymond with a 100% mark-up. Is there any reason why you could not place me in a priority position to receive Half Cents when you have them for sale? As you may or may not know, I now have all 96 varieties of Half Cents which are listed in my book. Currently I am trying to upgrade a number of them. In addition I am receiving at least 5 or 6

letters a week from various persons asking questions about Half Cents and usually inquiring if I have any for sale. For the most part I don't.

Bland 6/30/73 In many ways my letter to you was rather obtuse but then I am the type of person who very often takes the "bull by the horns". The purpose of my letter was to let you know I'm interested in buying Half Cents but I must retreat somewhat from my letter. I realize that no customer should be telling a businessman how to run his business. Lord knows I have enough of this with my clients. Therefore I will leave it to you as to what Half Cents you want to make available to me. If by some chance I hear of the fact that you have offered or sold another collector a Half Cent I may or may not have wanted, I will Not start climbing on your back. I'm sure this has happened to you on large cents and is a damn nuisance. The only thing I'm concerned about is if the reverse is true i.e. you offered or sold me a coin that someone else wanted for his collection. I'm sure you know Bill Weber better than I do. This is one person who I am concerned about but I leave it to you.

Bland 12/2/73 describes in great detail archives research and organization of archives data

Bland 12/15/73 As you may know I become so busy from January 1 to April 30 I just have to turn coins off. The subject of the Half Cent CC is of course of great interest. Not only am I working on it but others are at it. What I'm trying to do is to form a committee such as I outlined in my article. This of course brings up the subject of Breen's CC. I have never seen it neither from his manuscript nor an updated one. I would like to see it but only as a historical document as I am of the opinion that Walter's material is out-of-date. You apparently have seen his and have compared it to what I published. Do you think this data would help in the cc? If so send it, but I do not plan to use it, nor would I publish anything from it unless Walter consented to its use. I'm sure you realize that I am not on good terms with Walter and you know what I think of his archival research. Therefore, I question the propriety of my even seeing anything of Walter's without his consent

Bland 12/19/73 About the Half Cent cc. Not certain what I can do but it's possible I can get some important info from Breen's original cc, which as to the top 6 or 7 varieties should be fairly up to date. This must, and I mean must, be held in the strictest confidence between you and me. Don't even tell your son. I could get my rear end in a sling if what I tell you ever got out.

Bland 12/23/73 Letter about CC project I have compiled over the years a notebook from which I took my information. I have NOT seen all the specimens which were included. In many cases I saw photographs (glossy prints) such as the Brobston and Showers Collections (courtesy of Norman Stack). In some cases the coins reported but not seen are from sales catalogues. For example, despite what I think about WB's writing I usually believe his descriptions and grades of coins. I strongly object to his rarity ratings (they are too high) and I object to his interpolation of National Archives data. In addition to all this since the publication of my book I have seen many specimens that have been shown privately to me some with the requirement that I do not disclose the owner to anyone and some without this requirement. My basic position is to make available all information I know on Half Cents to whoever is willing to listen provided I do not violate a personal confidence. As you only too well know this is a very touchy subject. Along with

Munde's Collection I got the envelopes from Hanson which had quite a bit of cc data. All of which I am sure came from Breen as I do not think Hanson knows anything about Half Cents other than what he has been given by Breen. I am digressing somewhat but I want you to realize that my data is only mine and is not the word of the deity. What I am going to send you IS ONLY MY INFORMATION. One very large hurdle is the fact that most Half Cent Collectors are so close-mouthed. This was how it was on large cents prior to the publication of Early American Cents. The formation of Early American Coppers Club has gone a long way to get data out on large Cents. Half Cents are another story. At the present time I feel Half Cents are 20 years behind large cents, the reason being the non-publication of Breen's book on Half Cents. I'm sure you realized I investigated why it hadn't come out before I published my book. This could be the subject of another 10 pages but I get writer's cramp. I'll tell you some time when you have a spare hour. At any rate, Half Cent information has to catch up. I firmly believe my book combined with "Penny-Wise" will help close the 20 year gap. Pedigrees of Half Cents are very hard to reconstruct. Perhaps the committee that I refer to in my PW introduction is functioning without any formal meetings. One thing I notice is that Half Cent Collectors seem to be more concerned about die states than large cent collectors. Do you have any thoughts on the matter?

Bland 1/7/74 I got my 1794 CMM7 from the June 1970 Stack's Sale. This was listed as a G-2 of 1794. The coins were carried as Consignment "H" and I don't know whose they were. But I believe that they had belonged to the person who purchased the Showers Collection. What he was selling was his prior collection if I am right over this.

Bland 10/14/81 Your list arrived and I spent the next two hours going over it. I just shut the door to my office and the world of accounting can go to hell. The 1794 G-4 SEL in condition 15 is one of my favorite stories. I had been offered the date set which contained the coin. The set was here in Washington with the dealer who sold the set to Goldman. I went by his shop specifically to see the 1794. I took it out of the holder. I looked at it under a glass. I DIDN'T CHECK THE EDGE. I passed on the coin since I had it in better condition. WKR called me about an hour after he got home and we put the story together. I cover this story in my book which is in process. I also have another sad tale somewhat similar about the VF-1808 not in ?? but I save this for another time. I've thought a good bit since Long Beach and I wonder how much Breen and Company really know about Half Cents. I know my rarity ratings will be lower than theirs. I also think my condition census will be higher. In all cases I have seen the coins or had them reported to me by persons such as yourself. I also think Walter and Company are being a little surprised at how much is known by present Half Cent Collectors. Certainly in the last 10 years far more data has been made available than in the previous 20 years which was sort of like a dark age when only a limited amount of information came from Mt. Olympus.

Bland 10/19/81 I'm certain Breen knows all about Half Cents and Hanson must know a lot, Jack Collins nothing. But so much of Breen's information is technical like 1797 Half Cents being made in 1799, etc. What needs to be put in a book certainly can be done as well by you as Walter. Hope your book is out by December. It's very important to publish before Breen but

don't rush so as to leave important facts out, and I do agree that your cc should be more accurate unless Breen and Company spend time viewing all the half cents you have.

Bland 10/28/81 The 1794 G-6 LEL was acquired by Blaisdell at the Lohrman sale, Bill Raymond is the one who identified it correctly. Too bad I didn't accept Blaisdell's invitation to view his coins. SQ West was a collector back in the 1960's. He purchased coins from Picker, Breen, and others. His full name was Dr. Stanley Q. West. I believe he discovered an 1800 Large Cent and one of the NC's as well. I tried to contact him back in the late 1960's but his mail was returned – moved, left no address. He obviously procured some of his Half Cents from Endlenem as West lived in Philadelphia. About 3 years ago I got to see a big pile of papers of West's which included a listing of coins in his collections. I was able to piece together missing parts of the chain of ownership on a number of Half Cents. He had 88 of the 96 varieties listed in my book and 4 of the missing varieties were from 1793 and 1796. So all in all West had a very extensive collection

Bland 11/6/81 The 1794 G-6 LEL purchased by Blaisdell out of the Lohrman sale was attributed in the catalog as G-7 with no mention of the size of the edge letters. However, Blaisdell's note in his catalog which I have, makes a comment that the coin has Large Edge Letters and that's probably why he bought it. So if credit is given for the discovery it should go to WCB.

Bland 11/11/81 Yours of 11/5 is in front of me which has been read and thought about. As I see it I have asked your opinion, you have given it as you see it which is a quality that I was looking for. I am going to try to express why I have prepared my book in the manner in which I have so that you will understand my viewpoint. The writing of a book is an attempt to cover a subject in such a way so as to make it possible for a person unacquainted with the subject to have some understanding of it. On the other hand, an advanced collector should not be turned off because the book is too simple. An advanced person such as yourself has passed the point of learning how to identify varieties, you have also passed the point of learning rarity of varieties, the characteristics of certain varieties and a number of other items which must be learned by the person who is new to the Half Cent field. By your own statements you do not seem to be concerned about the past history of the how and why of certain Half Cent information. Some persons are interested in this and a book to my way of thinking must have this data. As I understand it your chief concern is the condition census which is the main concern of many advanced persons. What I have done in the book is to make the condition census somewhat vague as you have pointed out. Does everyone agree as to grading? Now what about a person unacquainted with all these owners mentioned? Or the sales? What about some of the specimens that have not been heard of for the last 5 years or so? Who are the owners and who are the agents? You might also identify those owners and agents who are using an alias. I just don't think that all the data is necessary in a book for the uninitiated general public. Those who are interested of which there are many start keeping records. What really should be done is to have one central source of the data. But who should it be? To whom should the present owners of coins be disclosed? What is being opened is a Pandora's box. The cc presentation I have made is enough to whet an appetite of a person without burying him in detail. If a reader is

interested he will go searching. It will give him something to do after he has mastered the things you have. Perhaps this was Sheldon's idea in setting the 1949 Large Cent CC. It sure has been expanded but you know as well as I do what problems exist with the Large Cent CC today. I consider myself an interested Large Cent Collector. I have 286 Sheldon Varieties and 3 NC's condition whose average is VG-10. I have one or two coins that may be in the CC but I am satisfied that I probably won't get any more. This situation is coming in Half Cents whereby there will be Half Cent Collectors such as I am in Large Cents. I think my book will give better guidance on Half Cents now and in years to come than one now gets today on Large Cents!! I would appreciate any further comments you may have but I hope I have made it clear why I am doing what I am doing. Now for another issue. I consider Bill Raymond to be the discoverer of the 1794 #6b (G-6) LEL because he let the Half Cent fraternity know that such a coin existed. I met and conversed with Willard on a number of occasions. He never mentioned his discovery to me or anyone else. He really lived up the stereotype of the close-mouthed Yankee he was. Interestingly enough, back in 1968 Walter Breen published in "Penny-Wise" about the 1794 NC 8 which he had seen in Blaisdell's collection. There then followed a lot of flak from Willard that the publication was unauthorized etc. It basically told me Willard wanted to keep a secret and Walter blew his cover. Blaisdell acquired the 1794 #6b back in 1963 but never let it be known thus I do not think he deserves credit.

Bland 11/20/81 The discoverer of the 1794 C-6b LEL, should it be the first one to make note of it or the first one to tell the world. I don't know. Willard was a closed-mouthed individual. Still he was a famous collector, one of the greatest but may not be recognized as such. In this case I would list him as the discoverer.

Bland 2/21/87 As for me telling you what half cents are in the collections of Naftzger, Hanson, and Rock goes, there are no political aspects nor implications concerned. I simply don't know. I did talk to Jeff Rock at Long Beach. He sold his half cents to someone in the Midwest but he wouldn't say who. That guy, Jeff said, sold his duplicates in a Coin Galleries sale.

Borcherdt 11/9/83 He only wanted you to see it and I didn't want Jules to know about it. I have to be very careful around Jules with nice coins that come from his area (which almost covers the whole state of Delaware and more). He's seen about everything and he might have remembered that one. This coin and many others in my collection came from an old collection buried for 30 – 40 years. Contains a list of his Half Cents. Almost all are unreported and came from private deals over 10 or 15 years. I have always been a very quiet collector.

Bowers & Merena 11/6/87 Thank you for your concern so that I can "improve" my collection and incidentally enhance the "Bottom line" of B + M Galleries. I might do business with you in the future IF you exercised such concern in regard to my numismatic literary efforts. In my opinion the cataloging of the Norweb Half cents was a disgrace.

Bowers 3/16/89 Another RSC correction to Bowers, this about accounting principles

Braig 9/6/75 Please excuse me for being a pest but it was your book that got me so engrossed in the "Little Half Sisters" and I'm holding you at least partially responsible for my enthusiasm.

I'm sorry for throwing another question at you but here goes. Coin pressing 1806 C2

Braig 1/12/76 I do suggest you test to see if the dot is corrosion. I would soak the coin in oil for about 24 hours and using a magnifier and a toothpick your dot may disappear.

Braig 3/13/76 Bravery doesn't run in the family but upon returning home, with lower lip between teeth and toothpick in hand, I attacked my 1806 C2 with the dot in the six under the scope. You're probably tired of hearing it but "you were right" again. The dot melted away to nothing with very little effort on my part. One of these days I'll learn. How long does one remain a novice in this variety game?

Braig 5/7/76 Someone in the Postal Service ripped off a copy of your book last month. I sent two to a West Coast collector but he received only one with tape hanging all over the place. See, the book is popular in undreamed of circles.

Braig 5/10/76 Cleaning it should be no problem. Just washing it with a toothbrush and soap and water should not harm it. I sometimes let a coin soak in a soapy solution for a half hour before I apply the toothbrush.

Braig 9/24/76 At EAC meeting at ANA, a fellow who, before the official meeting started, had introduced himself as someone who used to collect half cents, joined the "group" (Raymond, Cogan, Lusk, McGuigan, Katman, myself) and asked if we would like to look at a few of the pieces from his collection. He then proceeded to dazzle us with many coins (Schonwalter)

Braig 12/8/76 As far as the whist match was concerned, I call "foul". WKR had coins with him which he didn't own. You've got to realize that he is a dealer primarily. I've known him for many years and watched his "collection". It consists of what he hasn't been able to get his price for and coins which he has on consignment. The group of coins that he showed up with consisted of a large consignment from a Missouri Collector who after devouring the Showers Collection has turned loose his duplicates to WKR to sell. In addition WKR had coins from Blaisdell's Collection which he is peddling. He may keep a few coins but only until he gets his price from the Missouri Collector. The 1794 4b, 5b, and 6b will be in the Missouri Man's Collection when he will come up with the cash to WKR's satisfaction. This is not to detract from the coins you saw but to put what I consider whist to be, a match between owners of coins, not persons holding consignment. I had seen all these coins on 11/21 at my home. Many of these coins I had sold when I sent out my FPL#1 in 1972. The same Missouri Collector mentioned above purchased from FPL#1 a great many of the coins you saw. What WKR is primarily doing is to promote the sale of Half Cents. This is fine. We need dealers but for him to play a whist match with them I consider it to be "dirty pool". Addendum 12/21/76 Since writing the above I have found out that it was understood that the coins WKR was using were not his. This still doesn't change my opinion of playing whist with coins that are not owned by the person using them.

Braig 4/24/81 Well the tornado has passed and I can get back to coins. I will be at the EAC in Dallas. When I'm in Dallas I plan to sell a collection that I acquired recently. It consists of 82

varieties. I plan to offer it as a set only but may sell individual pieces if it doesn't move on Friday 5/1. I'm enclosing a list of the coins.

Braig 8/13/81 Here I sit on the coast of North Carolina spending a 2 week vacation and writing letters about Half Cents. Debby, Cate, and Amy are on the beach but I must admit I would rather be writing letters than baking in the sun.

Braig 9/22/81 As to the 1831- first of all please dismiss anything WB has written about specimens. He wrote the NN 51st Sale catalog back in 1958. The same basic information appears in the Proof Book. Also this same data appears in the Empire Book which is enclosed and really is WB work. What it comes down to is that WB is still being relied on when he hasn't had an original thought about the 1831 since 1960. Your information far surpasses anything that he has. #16 NN 51st Sale- this coin is a deep dark secret. I believe it was purchased by G. Jon Hanson. Hanson does not want to share information with peons such as you and me. He only wants you to give him info so he can use it for his own purpose.

Braig 12/26/81 The book is now at the printers. What a struggle! Delivery of bound copies will not occur until the end of January so the publication date has been moved to January 31, 1982. I might also add that I will be sending you a complimentary copy to in some way thank you for your help over the years. The pricing of the book is as follows; List Price \$35 EAC members after 2/1 \$30 EAC members before 2/1 \$25 12 or more \$21 plus shipping. The 1st edition taught me a lot about the book market. I'm determined to try to keep my book out of the hands of the discounters who play all types of games over the price. I'm sure you realize I derive much more satisfaction out of selling one copy to a person who is interested than selling 100 copies to some person who is just going to sell them. This philosophy seems to have worked as the majority of my present orders have come from previous persons who have the First Edition.

Braig 10/18/83 The Breen-Collins Fiasco is supposedly being printed in Japan. "Price is 40% less". Last I heard was that the book had been printed in Japanese and it was back to ground zero again. Perhaps Breen is waiting for the 50th Anniversary of when he announced in 1952 that he was working on a Half Cent book!

Braig 1/11/84 coin pressing 1805 C4

Braig 5/30/84 I'm beginning to regret not purchasing WKR's 5-piece offering way back when.

Braig 12/22/84 Ad for Breen book with quote by Cohen

No I'm not a turncoat. What has happened is a typical example of the level of honesty of the group which considers themselves to be the premier numismatists of the United States. Enclosed is a copy of the letter which I sent. The language which I used was deliberately done. There are many subtle references to things of the past. The first one which you should be aware is that Jack Collins and Walter Breen consider me to be an illiterate so I just gave it to them. I think what has occurred is an excellent lesson for those who are interested. What do you think of them now? PS I am writing this in New York where I am attending the ANS Conference. I met Mr. Henry Norweb here and find that he is very interested in coins. There are no present plans to sell any of his mother's holdings but plans can change.

Braig 7/11/87 Jim McGuigan collection

Braig 8/21/89 Thanks to both you and Debby for the warm hospitality while Frank and I were there. On top of everything else, you make one heck of a tour guide. My only real disappointment from the trip is that you and I didn't deal. Said another way, I'm unhappy you failed to offer me something(s) I couldn't say no to. When are you and Carvin going to stop backing up your back-ups. Includes pressing of 1806 C3.

Breen 9/27/72 Dear Walter, Recently while going over Ray Munde's Collection of Half Cents I noted an 1803 G-4 with the reverse rim break. The coin is in good 4 or 5 condition and is evenly worn with no defects. The envelope from Jon Hanson noted that it had originally been in your collection. My specific question is whether you acquired the coin at the 42nd New Netherlands sale in October 1953? If you will recall this is when I sold my original collection. When I saw the coin in Munde's Collection I wondered whether it had originally been mine even before he showed me the envelope from Hanson. I also note that in Lester Merkin's sale of Sept 1968 there is a similar coin listed as lot 46. I wonder if this is the same coin or another? My experience has been that I only know of 5 or 6 specimens with this break. I currently have the dog that was in the Brobston Collection but am working on getting one I saw in condition VF25. I enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for your reply which I would appreciate. Notes no answer as of 5/11/73 or 10/22/81

9/3/73 letter (to Breen) published in PW in response to Pffefer article (handwritten and typed) Breen replies with letter published in PW denies earlier letters and no recollection of requests for assistance

10/29/73 Letter from Warren Lapp to Roger thanking for returning call and for his support. Sends him Breen's letter which will appear with Cohen's in PW. Keep up the good work. You've certainly popularized half cents with your work.

Breen 12/1/73 Dear Mr. Breen, Your reply to my letter was of great interest. Even more so was the way you answered it. It was not my intention to write an article for "Penny-Wise" however when Dr. Lapp called me to obtain my permission to run my letter I was amazed. When Dr. Lapp sent me a copy of your answers I finally received an answer to a letter that I had written you. Going back through my files I find that I wrote you in December 1970 concerning the status of your book on Half Cents. I also wrote on the same subject in July 1971. Since you didn't reply, when the 1971 ANA Convention was held in Washington, I approached you and asked about a book on half cents. Your reply was "I don't give a continental damn what you do." Thus ended the interview. If this wasn't a rejection, I don't know what it was. I would like to add at this point I had a copy of my completed manuscript with me and had you exhibited anything except this hostility I would have given you the copy. If this is the way you have helped "any number of other EAC people" I wonder what their experiences have been. Then discusses in detail the emission sequence argument. I am happy that you noted my "splendid profession of faith" and I will expound my "present course". This course is to make available to all who are interested any information I have on half cents which does not violate a personal confidence. This is quite contrary to the course which has been generally taken by you in the

past. For 20 years you only fed to certain persons what you wanted them to know. I have noted references to your past actions on the pages of "Penny-Wise" innumerable times. I feel that by making information available that I am in keeping with the objective of EAC. Walter, for years the half cent field was yours. I went along with this as I felt that you would benefit Numismatics. But what happened? In the May 1952 Numismatist, the December 1953 Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, the 1955 Hillyer Ryder Catalog, the 18th Standard Catalog and numerous other places I read, Walter Breen is putting out a book on Half Cents. Then others got tired of waiting and I watched you squelch Stanley West, Paul Munson, and Howard Hazelcorn. These people were not "out to get you". They wanted information which you failed to disclose or if you did it was to just a few selected persons such as Jon Hanson. You never lived up to your own promises! This is why I have done what I did in publishing the Half Cent book. The book is not perfect and never will be but it's a big step forward which you never accomplished!! As it stands I do not believe I need any general information you have. Your data for the most part is out of date. I do however wish you current success in your current agreement with First Coinvestors Inc. Perhaps they came out a little strong in the enclosed poop sheet but I guess it's necessary to do this to help sales. Now that you have moved from being "collector" oriented to being "investment" oriented we are in different worlds.

Cohen sent letter above to Lapp, not to be published in PW, in case Breen responds.

1974 Box 352: Berkeley, CA 94701 Dear Mr. Cohen: your letter dated Dec. 1, 1973 did not reach me until shortly before Christmas, as I was out of town, and I have been so tied up since then with the annual Guidebook auction compilation as to preclude replying to anyone until yesterday. Even you. Sorry 'bout that. Possibly it was not your intention to have your letter reprinted in PW. It seemed to me, on rereading it, that the issues there brought up were important enough to require public notice and commentary; specifically, I had hoped that various EAC members would be able to provide additional evidence of other 1797 half cents overstruck on or by cent dies—especially attributable ones. I felt this course better than having to recapitulate both your letter and my reply in detail when I would have to bring up the question in PW. (One of the Superior Goldbergs showed me Ruby's various 1797's, subsequently privately sold, contrary to their agreement with FCI, in LA, while I had your letter with me, which triggered my course of action.) Also, not to put too fine a point on it, I was and am irritated with your choice of language, and in no mood to spend a lot of time placating you. Wherever you sent me any letters in 1970 or '71, they failed to reach me. We learned that much of our mail sent to Swaim Ave. in Staten Island failed to get there, including some cheques and some bills, to embarrassment of more than one party; Unfortunately, mail from Staten Island also sometimes failed to reach its destination, which can be damnably inconvenient when the piece of mail is a payment on an overdue phone bill! I do not recall the wording of your question of either your or my book on half cents at the Washington ANA Convention, but I do recall I had been badgered by a variety of people at that same convention about why I didn't GET OFF MY ASS AND PUBLISH or why hadn't I done so already or And at the time you were the last straw. I am sorry if my accumulated irritation from being poked in the same sore spot yet again and again

and AGAIN and A*G*A*I*N showed in your presence. You say you “got tired waiting to see my book.” Don’t you think I got at least equally tired of badgering John Ford about it ever since 1956? The book was up-to-date then, but he kept trying (he said) to get others to help subsidize its publication; there was a monstrous fuss about the plates (which were satisfactory enough for me) and a still worse fuss about his wanting me to rewrite it from scratch (all 350 pages) in my spare time, free despite its interference with professional assignments. Do you seriously think I could afford the \$7000 quoted by one publisher to have it vanity pressed? Alternatively, did you seriously think I should have made fair copies of not only the manuscript but the several hundred pages of additional notes so that you or someone else could publish them all on their own? I have had that ego trip with at least three other people (the latest one is still in EAC) over the years, and it is not worth the effort or the cost to me. I had no intention to antagonize you, but—because of the way other questions had been framed—I was in no mood to try to save \$7,000+ to publish, or to spend a year or two rewriting it to update it, especially if then I would have to turn the result over to someone else who expected to publish it under his own name. Hence, then as now, “I don’t give a continental damn what you do.” I was out of the picture on publishing or contributing on the scale required. I was, am, sick and tired to death of being badgered about it. The help I have extended to other EAC people has had to do with specific questions which would be answered fairly briefly. I was not, and with my FCI contract I am not, in a position to answer questions which would require copying out hundreds of pages of notes which nobody in the world could read as is, or submitting a publishable mss. Just yesterday I had to turn down a request from another EAC member who wants to publish a complete roster of proof-only half cents by complete pedigree for each of the 300+ specimens. Obviously this man had no idea of the amount of work such a request would require—even aside from its being a violation of my contract. Even if my pedigree ledger were completely updated (which would take me several months to complete), the sheer bulk of such a project rules out simply giving him it. Do you seriously contend I should have done so? You speak of favoritism and specifically mention Jon Hanson. This proves your dossier on me is based on insufficient facts: “contrary to the course that has been generally (?) taken by you in the past. For 20 years you only fed to certain persons what you wanted them to know. I have noticed (?) references to your past actions on the pages of “Penny-Wise” innumerable (?) times . . .” As for Jon Hanson, I have known him since he was a child. I trained him; he shared information with me, and when he grew up he helped me out of grave difficulties. Are you saying I should have done the same with all comers? Life and time are too short. You claim that I “squelched” Paul Munson and Dr. West. I have no idea what I could have said which might have given either of these good people any such idea as you cited (or is it your own idea?). I haven’t heard from Dr. West since Jan. 1965, when he was discussing edge lettering (claiming that LL G5’s of 1794 have the 1795 edge lettering, which I have been unable to confirm from specimens seen to date); I thought my reply was courteous, though conceivably he might have misunderstood it. I haven’t seen Paul Munson in years, but I thought we were still friends, and I was under the impression that he knew I was a lousy correspondent. I would be glad to hear from either of them again. As for Howard Hazelcorn, that is a sore point,

especially since he copied others' material and published it under his own name, among other things I will not discuss here. He has presumably grown up since, but at the moment I see no reason to invite him to copy anything else. Do you think I should have? I have already suffered at least three times from people who 'borrow' material from me with the aim of publishing it on their own under their own names. One of these people is still in EAC. Do you contend I should encourage these ventures? Let them do their own research; I had to. I will answer specific questions, but I am not here to make others' ego trips easy. As for "what I have done over the years", as you contend: Unpaid I published for years in The Numismatist. (Since Dec. 1950.) When I had to raise money to survive in college, I began writing for the Num. Scrapbook, continuing till it moved to Sidney, Ohio; and in Whitman Num. Journal until it folded. Since then I've done likewise in Num. News Weekly and Coins and Coinage when I could persuade editors that my material was suitable. Colonial Newsletter and PW have had my contributions when I could afford the spare time; my very full professional schedule seldom permits me to do unpaid amateur writing. I have tried this course rather than encouraging extensive correspondence to avoid duplication of effort. I have tried to discourage extensive correspondence because I learned in 1964 that it expands into a fulltime task—evidently you haven't had this problem. In 1964 I had to answer over 200 letters per week, without a secretary. The situation became critical when upwards of thirty people per week sent me coins to authenticate, wanting them back registered airmail the same day, without even—more than 2/3 the time—reimbursing me for postage, out-of-pocket lab fees, or the standard 5% authentication fee. Letters came to me addressed "Walter Breen, Berkeley, Cal" without other address and were delivered apparently as fast as those with the box number. Within a year (summer 1965) I succumbed to illness and the rest is history. Do you want this to build up again the same way? So you got tired of waiting to see my book on half cents. Don't you think I got at least equally tired of badgering John Ford about it ever since it was completed in 1956? He had originally led me to believe he could find a publisher, but weeks stretched into months and years. First there was the (crossed out and paragraph stopped). My original conclusion placing the 1797 Low Head die first was based on the evidence of punches. The pointed 9 punch was used on the 16-star dimes, which are known to have preceded the 13-star type; first deliveries of dimes, Feb. 28 and March 21, meant that the die and therefore the punch must have been in existence still earlier. The 13-star dimes, using the knobbed 9 punch found on G-3 and 4 half cent obverses, were delivered between May 26 and Aug. 20, 1797, after which the Mint closed for the yellow fever epidemic, not to reopen until November. This strongly suggests that the Low Head die was made first. Until the overstrikes showed up, I did not have any reason to believe that the coins were made in later years. An obvious opportunity for briefly using any old dies which could be pressed into service was the 1797 and 1799 emergency issues (see my monograph on Half Eagles 1798-98, p. 10): Nov 9, 1797—end of year; Nov. 1—Dec. 31, 1798; same period of 1799. My contention was that the Low Head dies were used on several occasions, and that the year 1799 seems more likely than 1800 because of the known deliveries of that year; evidently we have been reading different Julian articles. (July 1973, P. 598, among others.) Further: if the

“Dupont” and some other half cents were overstruck by cent dies, that provides a terminus. Cf. the lettered edge coin in Congress Hall, Philadelphia, ex Frank H. Stewart, overstruck by S-115; cf. also Brobston-Merkin 3/69:597. If you say all these coins were made in 1800, you must argue that S-115, 160-1, 164, 173, 1799/8, 186-7 were all made in 1800, later than the half cents. The question seems moot, though a sensible idea might be that half cents delivered in 1799 were made during Nov.-Dec 1798 but not then delivered. I don’t have Julian’s articles at hand with the exception cited, worse luck. I am not “investment-oriented” in the sense you speak of. I write auction catalogues—The Pine Tree GENA sale, and (by arrangement between the Superior Goldbergs and FCI) the Gilhousen silver and Ruby catalogues. FCI hired me as a watchdog, but they allow me to do my own barking; they do not require me to approach coins as investments irrespective of their numismatic nature. FCI has been very good to me; the terms of my contract are far more generous than those of any previous dealer employers. I have personal loyalty for both Lester Merkin and Charles Wormser, but they have not been in recent years in a position to use my services fulltime. Numismatics for me must be a source of income, without my being a dealer—a problem you are evidently fortunate enough not to share. I take it from the tone of your letter that you regard enmity as permanent. I do not wish it, but the next move is up to you. I have tried to be honest herein despite the sizable buildup of adrenalin which your verbal abuse has stimulated. I do not feel that I owe you any more apologies that those you have already had herein; but then, misunderstandings so profound as those between us are likely to result not from what injury either of us may have fancied he has received from the other, but merely from temperamental incompatibility. Short of an encounter group I do not know what I could do now to remedy anything. The next move is still up to you. If you wish to shake hands and end it there at the next EAC meeting, fine. If you wish to retain your evil opinions of me, I am sure I can cope, without reciprocating. Respectively yours, Walter Breen

Chatham 3/9/73 In regard to your post card re possible sale of Half Cents. From what happened at Stack’s last sale it seems to me that this would be a very good way to sell. I bid \$3600 on the 1796 by mail. I then called and increased it to \$4000 as it was going to the floor at my \$3600 bid. Due to work it was impossible for me to attend so I felt that with a \$4000 bid I should have gotten it, but I didn’t it went for \$4500. This was repeated on more lots than I care to discuss. The Half Cent market is up stronger than I’ve ever seen it. Part of it is due to the general boom in coins but I can’t help but believe that after selling 600 copies of my book that the book had had an effect.

Cogan 10/27/72 I always felt pride in having it particularly when our local coin club put on an exhibit a number of years ago. One of our “Big Wheel” collectors reluctantly agreed to let me exhibit my Half Cents which at the time were housed in a Raymond board set. After I put them in a corner of his case he said “well I guess you have all dates except the 1796” so I showed him. His reaction was one of surprise and he examined the coin very closely and then said “say you do have quite a collection”. It was very gratifying.

Cogan 12/6/72 I'm enclosing a list of my collection for your information. It's not the best collection in existence when it comes to condition but it's the only one I know of with all the circulation varieties now known. There is another collection known as the "Showers Collection" which has all the Proof-only varieties and most of the circulation varieties in at least EF40. This collection was formed over a 35 year period by Phillip Showers. In 1969 Stacks sold it for him intact to a person who wishes to remain anonymous. Despite all my efforts I can't find out who it is. Stacks did however loan me a book with photos of the collection so I could work on a condition census of the Half Cent Varieties. It's a very interesting collection. Then describes his thoughts on various auction houses.

Cogan 2/11/73 I was not bidding against you but I know who was. His name is Tettenhorst and he came by my house back in January with his collection. In the last issue of "Penny-Wise" Mike Griffith mentioned he had a "type set" of Civil War bullets. This is another of my hobbies. For over 15 years I have gone out relic hunting in this area and I've amassed over 10,000 bullets. Most are of course .58 caliber musket but I've found such items as Whitworth's, Kevi's, Gardiner Explosive, etc. This could be the subject of another long letter.

Cogan 8/11/73 I hope your vacation in California was as enjoyable per hour as the hour we spent in the airport. I wonder if there is any fanaticism other than coppers which would lead one to such extremes as a 40 mile round trip for one hour of talking. I guess coppers really are a disease which grows on you. I know for sure that I'm hooked because I didn't even hesitate at the prospect of that midnight sojourn. Wednesday was supposed to be for dealers only. Would you believe that right in the middle of cherry-picking an R-8 an announcement was made that anyone without a ribbon must leave the floor immediately or be physically thrown off. No way was I leaving. They were giving out ribbons for dealers and exhibitors so I charged up to the table and announced (as I was grabbing for a ribbon) that I was an exhibitor. Have you ever noticed that if you do something with enough authority you can usually get away with it? When I got back to my coin, heart still pounding, I did some closer inspection and noticed that my 1804 C3 was, in fact, sticking her tongue out. Drat, it was only a C5. It was low grade and most of the obverse die damage was worn off.

Cogan 8/18/73 I went to a meeting on Monday after I got to San Francisco of a number of EAC members. Present were Bill Weber who has a large Half Cent Collection, Hugh Campbell who after collecting for 10 years sold his collection to Del Bland who was also present. Bland is a dealer in both Large Cents and Half Cents. He does not have a shop but merely travels all over the country. Dick Winterhalter who is a recent starter in Half Cents, and Carl Windom who collects both Large Cents and Half Cents but his main emphasis is on Large Cents. The lot of 11 Proof Half Cents was purchased by a Washington DC dealer named Hal Webber. Webber's price for the 11 coins is likewise like Skylab. And who really wants that crap that was made for collectors and properly doesn't belong in a Half Cent Collection.

Cogan 11/18/73 Your comments about the Half Cent specialists who did not assist me is rather interesting. Actually all persons who I am aware of who are serious collectors helped me. Jon Hanson didn't help but then he's only a dealer and not a very sharp one at that. The other was

Walter Breen. He's not a dealer or collector, his occupation is that of a Sales Cataloguer. He now works for First Coinvestors which is an "investment"-oriented sales organization.

Cogan 6/5/75 Glad to hear you have the 1831. I really felt bad that fat Julie outbid you. Your fate on being outbid on the 1831 is similar to mine on the coin you acquired. When I got the Miles Sale Catalogue back in 1969 I bid on quite a few. I sent a bid of \$600 for the 1831 and only received one lot (the 1849). I was quite disappointed. Then when the prices realized came out and showed \$490 as the winning bid I was really shook. Next time I was in Stacks (about a month later) I asked them and they claimed they didn't get my bid which was a lot of BULLSHIT since I had gotten one lot off my bid sheet. Anyway since that time I always make a copy of any bid sheet I submit and on one occasion I got a coin that I had a record of my bid. What did you think of the Half Cents in Stacks Sale of 5/30 and 5/31. They belonged to a man named Donald Partrick of New York who was merely disposing of his duplicates.

Cogan 10/25/76 Enclosed is the supplement to my book which I am sending out with each new purchase. My stock of unsold copies is getting quite low 400 now out of the 2000 printed 5 years ago. It was my feeling 5 years ago that perhaps the book would go into a new edition now but I don't think it needs it yet. The supplement contains the basic data needed to update the book in my opinion. The condition census I feel should be determined by the group of Half Cent collectors and dealers who are active at the time that it's made up. I am constantly updating what I published in the November 15, 1973 issue of Penny-Wise. I'm having Bob Yuell here on the weekend of 11/13-14. I'm trying to attend the meeting on 11/26 in Ann Arbor, Mich. which was mentioned in the last "Penny-Wise". I don't know if I can go so I haven't told anyone I will definitely be there.

Collins 9/23/85 You really blew it this time when you cataloged Lot 161 in the upcoming Wyatt Collection Sale. I do find it rather surprising you even mention the existence of the Cohen book on Half Cents particularly since you deliberately omitted my numbers from all lots. With kindest regards and the fond hope that you will speak to me the next time we see each other, not like Baltimore where you ignored me much to my dismay!

10/7/85 I also understand that my letter to you of Sept 23rd was discussed freely at the reception prior to the sale. I know you call them like you see them but what about lot 149! Again with fond hopes that you will speak to me and not indulge in further character assassination.

Ewing 1/19/79 S-34 You lucky dog!! I enjoyed your recent article in PW. I was particularly interested as I have been runner-up at both the Ruby Sale and Morley Sale in the quest. However in December 1976 I got an S-34 in a trade where I had to give up the Brobston 1794 #7 Half Cent. The membership of EAC does not generally know that I collect Sheldon's also. I have 285 varieties with an average condition of about 11.

Fitzgibbon 9/12/81 a series of letters about his discovery of a 1795 C2b The finding of rare varieties in the series is one of the things that has kept my interest all these years.

Fitzgibbon 11/22/83 How do you tell original color from recolored? Looking helps and I'm sure I've been taken in on any number of specimens. Looking at the deepest part of the coin is a step I try to do. I have recolored coins that others feel is original color. It really depends on to what extent you mean by recoloring. Washing dirt off coins in effect recolors them. It also prevents coins from corroding. Perhaps the best thing to remember is it takes great skill to improve a coin and with little or no effort you can ruin one. I've seen plenty of unsatisfactory results.

Frederick 5/31/74 I'm very sorry for not returning this coin sooner but my life is undergoing great change now and I just don't have any time for coins. When my present mess is straightened out I'll call you.

Frederick 6/5/74 I'd recently heard that you were "very involved" in a family crisis-decision problem. One never likes to hear of a friend's trouble. I do hope everything works out for the best possible for you in coming months- family-wise, business-wise, coin-wise, and health and happiness-wise.

Goodrich 8/13/81 As you may or may not know Blaisdell's collection was acquired and sold out in individual lots by Del Bland and Bill Raymond. Stacks had always had a very good store stock of Half Cents and they get items apparently over-the-counter which they attribute usually by Gilbert and put in their stock. Some of their stock has been there for years. Did you notice the FCC Boyd envelopes, these are from the 1940's. About 10 years ago I purchased one in an envelope from George Arnold, who went out of business in the 1920's. The envelope stated the coin was in good condition. Norman Stack graded and priced the coin for me. He marked on it that the good condition was "old style" he graded it (F - VF). This shows the grade slide that both of us have seen. Since my son attends college in Vermont I may get up that way in the fall.

C. F. Gordon 6/29/78 It's not generally known but I collect Large (Double Half) Cents also. I'm trying the Sheldon numbers, but haven't tackled Newcomb yet. At this point he is missing 24 varieties, have two NC's. From September 1972 till October 1973 I had all known varieties, then the large edge letters showed up on 1794 #4 followed by 1794 #3, #5, + #6 which I still need but can't afford to buy at the astronomical price being asked. More will show up and eventually if I live long enough I may get. I do have some duplicate Half Cents for sale or trade. The condition of them isn't great as condition to me isn't that important. I like to handle my coins and not worry about preserving some traces of mint red. I could give more examples but it's just one of my personal feelings. I'm preparing a talk that I'm going to give in a month to a coin meeting with the title is "The Ridiculous Proposition of Condition." I may get booed off the speakers platform but I don't care as I feel that too many people are snobs when it comes to collecting.

Gratton 12/22/72 You noted in your letter to me that the response to your Half Cent sale was not what you expected. I'm not surprised at all. Half Cents were "orphans" when they were made

and circulated and most coin collectors have always treated them as “orphans”. This attitude is expressed even today in the Red Book when the introduction paragraph says “all Half Cents are scarce”. I believe this scares away most collectors. I have found that at any major show between 60-70% of all varieties are available. There is no shortage of them probably due to the lack of collectors. What effect my book will have I can’t say. The book has made it easy to identify varieties and most collectors who look at Half Cents are trying to pick up the rare ones unattributed. It will probably be about another 10 years before Half Cents will be sold by variety such as large cents are. The Gilbert rarity ratings as I stated have “generally withstood the test of time.” By this I mean that if Gilbert said a variety was R-6 by his scale of 10 it wasn’t an R-1 by my scale or if Gilbert said it was R-1 I didn’t say it was an R-6. Whether I’m a collector or a dealer is a good question. I’m a collector in the sense that I’m always looking for something new in Half Cents struck for circulation. I collect not only by the variety but also by die state. As a result of this objective I have accumulated some duplicates which I sell on occasion.

Grellman 11/26/84 Thank you for sending me the data on the 1803 #2. It is only with the help of persons such as yourself that the pieces of the picture fall into place. I doubt that the picture will ever be complete, sort of trying to get all coins as MS-70. I would like to see your 1825 #2 (BS I). BS means Breen State not what you may think. I do wonder if Half Cent collecting will devolve into a collection by die states. I can recognize cud breaks and major die cracks visible to the naked eye but wonder about minor imperfections that a 20x glass is needed. You might write to me as to your opinion.

Grellman 12/2/84 I imagine Breen’s book will promote more collecting of die states, but that may not be all bad. Many folks are frustrated by their inability to locate the varieties they need. By branching out into nit-pick die states, at least they can have some success at adding something to their collections. We will see. Bob Gellman

Grellman 12/7/84 I enjoyed your comments on die state collecting and the reasons why. They were well thought out and I agree with you.

Griffiee 11/21/82 I just finished reading “Little Half Sisters” (second edition) and I want to thank you very much for making all your knowledge available to me. Would you please send me the address of EAC Club as stated on page 130. I enclose a S.A.E.

Gross 10/21/80 Bill, Enclosed you will find the 1794 C3 LEL. If I remember correctly Roger graded this coin 12, as did Jim. Not having seen the coin for approx. 2 years I was pleasantly surprised for I believe the coin to be 15 or 20 (even though once cleaned). This coin was purchased 1/76 in Miami Beach from Dennis Steinmetz at the FUN Convention (prior history unknown). Since this coin obviously belongs in your collection I hope it is satisfactory. I never felt that this coin would leave my collection, but it really doesn’t fit in. hope we will come to terms. Fondly, Rick Gross

11/1/80 Dear Rickey, Received the 1794 C3b in good order – many thanks. Enclosed is the 1834 Proof which I hope provides you much pleasure. I bought this in auction from Al Overton, Pueblo, Colo. Sept. 1958. I was just as “charged up” when I received this as you were in LA at the EAC in '78 and first viewed this coin. I'm pleased that you'll be the owner and it will have a lot of nice TLC. You may be assured your '94 will be well treated by me. If you're coming to Long Beach I'll give you a private showing of all the '94's- large and small edge letters and take you to dinner. Our discussions on pricing our cherries has been rather vague. I've made a number of inquiries regarding prices of items like ours and have come up with this proposition. How does your coin and \$7,500-for my coin seem to you?? Please understand that I'm not interested in making this our last coin deal. I'm sure we'll each be desirous of making sales, swaps, etc. in the future between each other and that-most importantly- they'll be mutually beneficial. Let me hear from you on your feelings.

11/5/80 Bill, It is obvious I can never afford to swap with you. As you can see I have not inspected the coin. Please return the 1794 at earliest convenience. Upset, Richard Gross

Guth We recognized your name instantly as the author of the foremost reference on the Half Cent series, and we are sincerely honored to receive a letter from you. We thank you not only for your letter, but for the great service you have done for the Half Cent series and the hobby as well. Your book is excellent, a vast improvement on both Gilbert and Empire, and with the exception of any newly discovered varieties is virtually complete. We enjoy reading it, and find it very easy to use.

Guth 7/8/76 I do plan to revise the book as five years will have passed this fall since the publication. There is a great deal more known now particularly when it comes to the condition census but it takes time and perhaps more time than I have now.

Guth 9/6/76 It's always a pleasure hearing from you and an even greater pleasure learning from you.

Guth 9/23/76 The book is just about sold out after 5 years. Had 2000 copies printed and I have about 300 left.

Guth 10/11/76 Along those lines, it was interesting to see the latest Stack's sale of the William Fenn III collection, containing those now famous 1796 half cents. I am glad to see they mentioned your name in the description of the coins, but I feel very strongly that they have insulted you by not using your numbering system in describing the coins. I'm sure there are a lot of old collectors who might be at a loss when they see a Cohen designation, but it seems to me that when a coin is worth upwards of thousands of dollars, the person buying it ought to know everything there is to know about the coin, including its proper Cohen number! It was good to see your system recognized as the official system by EAC, so I think the rest of the numismatic world ought to get with it.

Guth 10/29/76 In regard to your comments on the non-use of my numbering system by Stacks, I can only say that it's up to the collecting fraternity as to whether my numbers are used. Did you note what Dr. Montgomery wrote for PW on page 194 of the 7/15/76 issue? Stacks does not take

the trouble to renumber the coins which they receive for auction. If the coins received are not attributed they usually don't take the trouble to do it. The only way to get the use of my numbers is for the bidders in their auction to write to them about the non-use of my numbers. The coin collecting fraternity is the one which actually decides whether my numbers are to be used. The use of my numbers is also subject to another factor and that is Walter Breen. You may or may not know that he had been saying since 1952 that he was writing a book on Half Cents. After 20 years of promises and no production, my book burst forth on the scene. If you will look at the Ruby I sale in 1974 which Walter wrote there is no mention of anything I wrote. To him my book doesn't exist. Again, there's really nothing I can do about this. I can only let my book do the talking. It's pretty well established that most all current collectors of Half Cents use my numbers but it's the dealers and cataloguers of sales that must be pressured to use them. If sales lists and auction catalogues care to have them. I have noticed that some dealers such as Penn Valley (Simons), Joe Flynn, and Bowers and Ruddy use my numbers. It's only when the word gets back that sales are improved by the use of my numbers that the other dealers will use them. So to sum up this writing all I can say is, wait, it's changing, it just takes time.

Guth 11/22/76 I must confess something to you. Before starting a regular correspondence with you, I had heard rumors that you were a slow responder to letters written to you. Needless to say, you have dispelled all rumors, much to my glee and much to the surprise of those who believe otherwise. One final note. In rereading your last letter I noticed you mentioned Walter Breen. I noticed in my early issues of PW that little or no love has been lost between you two, and I was wondering if perhaps things have changed. Not having met either of you, and having corresponded only with you, I haven't formed any opinions of the man, but I would like to know how valid is his promise to share his notes with any interested member of EAC, barring commercial interests. It appears to me that there might be three or four different censuses being researched, and that these researchers have done little or no collaborating. Is this in fact true, if so, Why? and what can be done to correct it?

Guth 12/20/76 What I would like to write about is the "Breen" numbers. I don't know all but I'll try to let you know as much as I know. In my book I make reference to the efforts of Walter Breen and Jon Hanson in the preface, where I stated I had been waiting 20 years for the Half Cent book and I was tired of waiting. It all seems to have started with Walter Breen in 1952. I will refer you to the article in the May 1953 Numismatist which was reprinted in the Quarterman Book "United States Large Cents." If you have a copy, look on page 494 for a reprint of the article. If you will note the first sentence deals with a standard work on Half Cents. To make a long story short Breen kept promising for 10 years. His efforts were basically published in the Empire Book by Bowers and Ruddy but if you have ever seen it you can see why it didn't replace Gilbert. The next 10 years were made up of promises from Breen and Hanson, who was Breen's student such as Breen was Dr. Sheldon's. The fact that the book was never published did not deter the sales efforts of New Netherlands Coin Co. for whom both Breen and Hanson worked. Breen numbers were and still are being used by a cataloguer by the name of Jack Collins who lives in California. I'm sure you realize that I had no help from Breen on my book.

I could write pages about what happened both before and after the books publication but this would not further the idea of getting information out into the hands of those collectors who are interested. I also try to encourage interested collectors to write for PW. Breen on the other hand has always ridiculed any efforts by persons who he considers inferior, which is most everyone in my opinion. However he hasn't been able to upset my book. What he has done and continues to do is ignore it. The Ruby sale in 1974 is an example. I feel everyone has the right to an opinion, and this applies to Walter as well.

Guth 9/19/77 I understand the desire for anonymity that many collectors have. This is mainly due to the fear of theft. Also some collectors just don't want to share information. I really don't care who owns a specimen. All I'm interested in is whether the coin exists and that it is what it is purported to be. Time is the factor that tells. If I live long enough I'll hear of most specimens. A major point in compiling the CC is the theft angle which will make the fencing of stolen coins difficult. Also the compiling of the pedigree helps the assertion of genuineness of a coin. I did get one coin from Jess Peters sale, the 1796-1. I have a duplicate one, however it is the Alvord specimen so I really don't want to dispose of it. Since I disposed of my Mickley Restrike specimen, you know what I think of this fabrication. You might also refer to the chapter in my book where I mention it. If you are going to be in Washington I'll be glad to go over my collection. I do place a restriction. I don't have time to spend a day or two in the period January 1 to May 15. My office is just too busy.

Guth 5/10/81 Guth I am working on an unabridged history of the early Philadelphia mint. Using Evans book as a base, I am finding all sorts of tidbits of information that would make an interesting addition to your book. Did you notice how I referred to it so subtly. Not to sound like Walter, but I think that an updated version should be written, and if you don't I will. But I'd rather help you do it than do it myself because you have the benefit of years of experience in the field of Half Cents and in collecting and publishing, not to mention superior contacts. As you mentioned before, your first book was somewhat of a primer; I feel a need for an advanced complete book for the serious numismatist and student of the series. I feel any new book should have color photos of the top specimen of each variety, if possible, to aid collectors in determining grading and the standing of any given coin in relation to the top census coin.

Guth 7/13/81 Guth If you can keep a secret, I now have a copy of the elusive Breen manuscript. I don't recall if you said you had seen one but it does have some coins listed in the census that is included that now may be of significance. Most of the other information is hopelessly outdated, especially the historical introduction where the designers and engravers of the half cent dies were named. In any event, it makes for interesting reading, most of the information was brought out in your book in one way or another but there are a few items that should be included in your upcoming revision. Note my presumption, heh-heh.

Guth 5/21/81 The renowned Mr. Ghatt of course thanks you for buying his 1802 CMM#1. When we got home from Dallas Harrison Garrison Ghatt was being boarded at the Veterinarian, so I didn't see him until Monday. Mr. Ghatt is one of our cats! He is known as Gary Ghatt. I have another alias which is Sam Wigglesworth which is our dog Sam who has sold coins at

various times. Sort of like Sheldon with Haration and Hazard Sheldon who assisted with his book. They were names of his typewriters!! Anyway the coins were mine. You also might note that Mr. Ghatt is not a figment of my imagination. On the business of the census information I can only point out that it's very difficult to get an accurate one where one knows the location of each census specimen and its prior chain of ownership (pedigree). I've worked on this over more years than I care to remember. Over the last 10 years I have been able to accumulate some of the data and I have this as the basis for what I have published in PW and will embody in my second edition. The work on the 2nd edition is always going on and as I pointed out a book is no easy job. The mechanics are quite involved. When I finished my smooth draft in May 1971 it still took till December to have product in hand and I had no major obstacles. I also had to compromise many things such as color plates. The printing trades may have changed in 10 years but I do not think color plates are practical for a run of 2000 books. If you venture into book publishing you are going to have many surprises. One of the worst things are typo errors. Despite all my efforts there are 2 errors in American Half Cents. A book such as "Penny Whimsy" is full of them. The typo errors in Gilbert are very numerous. Sure I can keep a secret. I suppose Collins finally gave you a copy of the "Half Cent Book". I could write pages in regard to the history of that manuscript which like condition census data was for many years something that only a select few were even entitled to see. I'm sure you realize that my approach is just the opposite: "Let's get the data out." This way many persons can participate, not just the select few. I have used the pages of "Penny-Wise" for some of this. Now as I have explained the 2nd edition is in process. Without seeing a copy of the WB manuscript, do you notice the style of the manuscript? I'm sure it's Ex-Cathedra which means from the choir, literally from God. I strongly object to this style. I would like to know what you think is relevant to the 2nd edition. I am enclosing some information which you may have some interest in. Jack Collins has not replied to me. Probably never will i.e. directly write a letter to me but will probably publish something which I will have to reply to via the same medium or tell him to drop dead by ignoring him. My letter is quite pointed but to me it is the sort of thing that is needed to show up the sanctimonious ass-holes. I would like to make you a proposition. My smooth draft of the 2nd edition will be ready about September 1 to go back to the printers. However I will hold it up if you desire to be the co-author of this work. This means that I will have to make changes which you think should be included which at a minimum will delay one month and at a maximum could cause the second edition never to go to the printer. So what I propose is that we meet in mid- September or so with our data and my smooth draft to make changes. We will also discuss many things but I would like to know your thoughts. PS This is the style I used for the rough draft-many changes can be put in for the typist.

Guth 8/1981? I'm looking forward to seeing you again and keeping you up till the wee hours discussing half cents. What better way to spend the time.

Guth 1/18/82 19 days and still counting. That's how long the printer has had the book. Of course the "blue lines" had errors so that took up a week. The waiting is like waiting for your wife to give birth. Have had an offer to purchase the entire first printing of 3000 less 300 I have

presold or will give out. The only area we're not in agreement on is when he pays for the books. Also have been contacted by another person for exclusive distributorship. It seems that I have a number of friends one who identified himself in the enclosed letter to Coin World which you might have missed. The other friend wishes to remain anonymous. He has sent the enclosed to me, Bill Smith, and Jack Beymer that I know of. Did you get one? I have an idea who did it but he denies it. Oh well!

Guth 7/31/82 Just a follow-up to congratulate you on the fine piece of writing for the July 15th edition of Penny-Wise. You have taken an area which was covered in general terms in the 2nd edition and completed the story. I'm sure you realize that for a book which is to be read by the neophyte this would be too much detail but to advanced collectors your article is the "meat" that we all appreciate. I am also glad to note that you copyrighted your article. I'm sure you realize to do so takes no great effort. You may or may not know I was the one who prevailed on Bill Smith when he was President of EAC to have the copyright value put on PW. This is also a very fertile field for further research based on facts and reasonable assumptions clearly labeled as such. This field does not need any more "American Classicism" as expounded by ALNB and his imitators. I'm sure you understand that writings by persons other than myself should be encouraged, however for 30 years the Half Cent field has suffered from ALNB and its only in the last 10 years that persons have had enough "moxie" to tell ALNB to "cram it". These efforts must now be redoubled due to the specter of the "Great Zeus Publication."

Guth 11/9/82 Glad you're going to be a dad. After five times it seems like "old hat" to me but I can understand your elation.

Guth 10/22/84 Enclosed is a letter I sent to Jack but I really don't expect a reply. I must say the Breen book is just about what I expected. A mountain of words with photos which do not come up to what I had expected. This is mainly due to the use of composites and not identifying them as such. The put-down of my books I had somewhat expected but everything that could be thought of to discredit me has been done by either quoting or omitting information that originated with me. Walter's text besides being too long is very uneven and rambles all over the lot. He contradicts himself so many times I've lost count. Since you have a copy of "The Ugly Duckling" you might go back and look at it. In there you will find many things verbatim and a number of things omitted. The omitted items and changes are usually due to the body of collectors that has grown up based on my books. The help which you and Bill Weber supplied has helped improve the book over what was going to be put out but to me it's a real problem. Not as much with the present collectors but we present Half Cent numismatist will be correcting Walter's errors for years!!! In short Walter needed a good editor; he sure didn't get it from his young protégé Doug Winter! I doubt that Walter would have allowed such editing as was needed. The publication of Walter's book has made it so my book must remain available. I plan to reprint when the present supply is sold and then I will probably do a 3rd edition. I expect that it will probably be about 1990 or so before I'll get this done. Meanwhile the "Top Ten" must continue in PW. Now we have the Breen-Hanson information. I doubt there will be much change except for new discoveries and the reappearance of coins long in collections. Keeping

track of the changes in ownership is a major problem and I doubt that the cc will ever be complete. Did you notice the overgrading of Hanson's coins? I wonder how long that collection will be intact or is the "Big Red Book" a sales catalog for his collection.

Hanson 7/18/71 I have been intending to write to you for some time as I understand that you have quite a collection of Half Cents. The July 15th issue of "Penny-Wise" has your address so I have taken the liberty of writing you. It has been my experience that there are few Half Cent collectors. I started three years ago to put together a set of Half Cents by variety. Previous to this I had collected coins and at one time had a fair Half Cent collection which along with the majority of my collection at that time were sold in the 42nd New Netherlands sale. The sale was in 1953 so when I started up again it took a little bit to understand how prices had changed. None-the-less I plunged in. The first thing I noticed was that another Half Cent work had been published. The work was by Bowers + Ruddy but seemed to be the work of Walter Breen. I had contact with Mr. Breen back in 1952 and 1953. At that time he was working on a Half Cent reference. I understand that Mr. Breen's work was never published yet the Bowers + Ruddy book seemed to be Walter's style. Can you give me an explanation? The Bowers + Ruddy work however did not seem to be a particularly good reference. The thing I noticed was the lack of illustrations and rather cryptic descriptions of the die varieties. Outside of 1795, 1802, and 1808 the order of listing varieties seemed to follow Gilbert. I also noticed that there seemed to be quite an emphasis on the restrikes of the 1840's and 50's. These items have no appeal to me as I consider them to be made for collectors and not for general circulation. I therefore set a goal of a collection of Half Cents which were struck for circulation. I excluded the Proof-only dates. This resulted in 99 coins. At the present time I have been able to acquire 89 of these. Condition-wise my collection is not great. Basically I am satisfied with any coin which is identifiable and will later upgrade if the price isn't too steep. I do not to my knowledge have any of Alvord's coins and I only have 3 coins which were in Brobston's collection, only 1 of these is worthy of note and that is the 1795 G-6 on a thin planchet. I have some questions as to how accurate are the rarity ratings by B+R. In this area I have picked up 12 specimens of G-3. Most are low grade but to me R-5 seems much too high. The 1809 G-1 which is R-4 is quite common in my experience. After acquiring 13 specimens I just quit unless they were fine or better. I have also noted that other varieties seem to be more available than their rarity would indicate. Perhaps you may have some of the varieties that I need, and some answers to some of my questions.

Hanson 7/23/71 Received your letter of July 18th. First of all I'm curious to know who says I have quite a collection of Half Cents? You probably have been in contact with either some of my customers or collector friends. I had heard that you were again actively collecting, but I never knew that you had sold out in 1953 via NN (my old firm) (Walter never mentioned this). As you probably know I was formerly (along with J. J. Ford and WB) a full-time employee of New Netherlands Coin Co., Inc. and Walter's protégé pupil for 10 years prior to my association with NN and the incomparable JJF! I wrote practically the entire 59th Sale, parts of others, several mail sales, and some of the advertising for the firm in their traditional, incomparable

great style. Prior to 1966 I was studying at USC and dealt full-time and advertised under my own name for 9-10 years. Now I am back in California because I detest “the city” of NY; however that may again change! The past 5-8 years have really been something for the coin business. There is definitely now more interest in genuine collector items and early Americana, but generally the hobby has diminished from its peak of the early to mid-60’s. Prices for Half and Large Cents and colonials might seem especially high now (but compare the J.B. sale of 8-9 years ago), but there are many more collectors for the things and people continuously pay higher prices for rarities and choice or super condition items. Thus, the great demand is there and remember there are only so many good or quality items /coins available. Many of the “super” coins sold or auctioned in the 50’s went into collections either accessioned to museums or relatives not needing the money and will probably. . . Now down to specifics, your favorites, the Half Cent series by die variety. As of this letter there are at least 22 half cent die variety collectors that I know of, 2/3 of which are serious full-time collectors. The other 8 are old “fogies” that bought for several years either by auction or privately (i.e. buyers at “Dupont” and Ryder sales), stuffed their acquisitions into Safe Deposit boxes, and then lost interest and ceased collecting or actively acquiring specimens to upgrade or add to examples in their collections. (I figure there are 8-10 secret customers of Picker’s, Stacks, etc. hiding out somewhere; this is speculative). Yes, the Queer David and Crudy book is a worthless piece of garbage and a complete joke. Walter and I consider it an abortion! All information contained was “borrowed” from Walter. Sure they emphasized the 40’ish material, because this was what they were pushing at the time (and still are if the R.L. Miles sale is any criteria). Bowers bought up nearly the entire lot of Proof Half Cents at the sale and marked them up to the moon. That’s OK and his privilege except that the entire collection was scrubbed to death by Miles himself with baking soda, and you can imagine what cleaned copper looks like, good, Unc. Proof, or otherwise. Stacks laid the coins out on window sills for 6-9 months in order to attempt to change some of their pitiful color. The result was a laugh and the whole episode a crime, but the sucker public went burzurk as usual! Back to the book. Walter began his Sheldon-like reference on the series around 1948/49, but the thing was never really completed. He lost interest mainly because of fights with Father Ford, many of his works were not getting into print, material prose was being altered, and a general disenchantment with deadbeat coin dealers, publisher, and the coin business as a whole. About 15 years ago I developed a strong interest in the series (as a result of having collected large cents) and we again began gathering material. For the last 9-10 years I have been doing all of the work for the book and have completely overtaken the task. Walter’s fantastic basic info still remains, but the rarity, condition census of known specimens . . . changed. So, the book in its original state is completely void and has had to be completely rewritten. I will not go to press until I think the thing is nearly perfect. The greatest task is honest grading for a true cc and rarity ratings. I have been collecting photos of cc coins for years. In the last 7-8 years I have owned or handled 95% of the choice half cents that have changed hands, so the cc has really been coming along-consistently, but here are gaping holes where I either can’t locate certain coins of old “stiffs” won’t come out of the woodwork so their

coins can be seen. The other problem is that many of the newer collectors constantly overgrade so I have to actually see coins before I include them. Then, cameras aren't accessible to photograph the important examples. One thing I consider to be the whole key to the cc- "it is not what you or anyone else grades the coin pointwise, it is how the coin stands when placed next to its mates in a line-up on a table with natural bulb light." Only this way does the true condition and rank come to light when 2-5 coins, 10-15 points of each other are laid out. Many people have 35 coins and scream EF/AU and finest known, etc., but if it is worse than the top 3 coins (45-40-35) it is only 4th best. It is difficult today to because people overgrade for 1 main reason- a higher price. This is what is wrong with the coin business. Everyone wants to clean or process coins and "slide" them for a bigger price on condition alone, not on the merit of the coin itself. I am completely anti-dealer because they are mostly con-artists, hustlers, liars, and illiterate people. And don't think for a minute those lime-lighters of the EAC Club aren't vest pocket dealers interested primarily in the "how much is it worth level!" Enough of that. Your 99 tabulation of business strikes represent all varieties known to Gilbert plus new discoveries, minus 1795 G-2 and 1808G-3 fakes and the 2 varieties of 50 + 56. However, don't limit yourself to this (as you and RDM did in your half cent whist game). I find die states very exciting, many are not only interesting but ex. rare and some prove of extreme value when studying the emission sequence. Besides the proof-only dates, there are the other proof dates of business strikes, errors, patterns, and counterstamps. I have owned every half cent variety with the exception of three: 1795 G-1 thin planchet, 1796 pole, and 1831 orig. I have owned finest known or high cc items of all except 10 varieties. . . I have owned more than one of some of the great rarities, R-8 and former R-8 coins, for example 94 G-2 (3), G-5 LEL (3), and lists many more. It all adds up to the fact that I truly love the Half Cent series. I still consider the coins undervalued (in comparison to large cents and other series). One reason there are not more Half Cent collectors is because choice and rare half cents are terribly rare. Varieties of business strikes large cents total around 600 and overall condition of large cents is very high compared to Half Cents. So, it's 6 to 1 in total number plus the opportunity to acquire more high grade coins, plus more competition which causes proportionately much higher prices! (for large cents that is-also total production large cents vs. Half Cents is 10:1). The answer is clear. Can you imagine what my Half Cent book will do for the series! Yes, B+R rarity ratings are off, but were probably more so when the paperback first came out. Some varieties were underrated at the time but are now more or less correct. Specifically which ones aren't you sure of? I don't have a B+R-fill me in. As for items you lack I have 2, maybe 4 of the ones you need. The one available now is the 1794 G-5 with G-9 or large edge lettering (you are the 1st person to describe it correctly!) The coin is G/VG on the obv., evenly worn and relatively clean with even dark color; rev. good, well-worn with only 1/2 of United visible, but clean. No damage, 1 small rim bump. From the West, Breen, and Hanson collections. Price: \$55- 4 known, probably 2nd finest. In any event glad to hear from you anytime and happy to see you are again stimulated with the series. Look forward to some of my articles which shall begin appearing in the EAC papers. I have some real bomb shells. Maybe I shall restart my ?? forum in the Numismatist.

Hanson 7/28/71 Many thanks for your correspondence and complete answering letter of 7/23/71. The four pages were a delight and confirmed many of my ideas. I have yet to have anyone say good things about the work of "Queer David and Crudy". I think that's a great name for them. Do you refer to Stacks as Katz? Last month I played another whist match. This time it was Paul Munson of New Hampshire. This time I won by a score of 148-104 which was about what the score was against me when Ray Munde and I locked horns. I really enjoy the Whist Matches. To date I have seen all of the 99 business strikes except 1793 G-2, 1794 G-3, 1794 G-7, 1796 G-2, and 1804 obverse 6 Reverse 10. Walter Breen showed me the last coin after he found it at the MANA Show in 1953 but it's been so long ago I really don't remember it. I never will forget the MANA Show in 1954. The great Richard Picker announced to me he had found another reverse die but then wouldn't tell me which date. I eventually found it was the 1809 but he sure seemed like an ass to do what he did to me. Just the same I love the Half Cents. I've had a fascination for them since childhood and I'm now middle-aged. Yes I go in for die states and have quite a few. I'll never forget picking up an 1808/7 with the obverse break at a local coin show last year. I knew what it was before I got out the magnifier and the hustler who was selling had it classified as a 1808 normal date. I gather from your letter you will be here for the ANA. If so please bring the 1794 G-5 with G-9 edge letters. I'd like to acquire it.

Hanson 2/7/72 First, I want to thank you for a copy of your book which you graciously sent me. Thank you for thinking of me.

Hanson 2/22/72 Enclosed please find a 1794 G-3 which I just acquired in a group of coins. Knowing you lack this variety, I think you will find this example acceptable. I want \$275 for it. I have actually owned twice as many 1794 G-2's as 94 G-3's.

Hanson 2/27/72 Enclosed is the check for the 1794CMM#8 which you sent me on approval on 2/22/71. I am buying the coin despite the fact that I have to resolve not to buy coins during the period of Jan 1 to April 15th of each year. My resolution arises from the fact that I am incredibly busy during the period and the payroll in my office skyrockets. My collection of fees usually just keeps up with expenses until April 15th but from then until the middle of the summer I have some left over for coins. I'm sure you realize that the purchase of coins must be the last thing after office expenses, living expenses, and income taxes in that order. Just to give you an idea how busy I am consider that I have worked 96 hours this week and I am writing this to you at 5am Sunday morning. I got into the office at 3am after 6 hours sleep. This is my life during the tax season. Thank goodness it only lasts 3 ½ months a year. Just to keep you informed my want list is down to 4 coins, 1794 CMM1b, 1796 CMM1, 1804 CMM2, and 1831. Note that I do not need an 1804 CMM3. I have picked up what I consider to be an example but the obverse is very corroded. The reverse does not have the bisecting crack of the CMM5 and is an earlier die state than any of my CMM5's without the bisecting crack.

Hanson 5/5/72 I also have an 1803 C-2 high grade which possibly might be the state you believe struck in 1805. Raymond has been hounding me regarding the coin.

Hanson 5/12/72 In your last paragraph you noted that you had a high grade 1803 G-2 (CMM1) "which possibly might be the state you believe struck in 1805." I never said this neither verbally

or in my book. Raymond mentioned this in a letter to me also. I think what the confusion is that I stated in the book that I thought 1803 CMM4 was struck in 1805. The old Gilbert no. 2 was renumbered by me to CMM1 so what seems to be occurring is that my #1 is being confused with Gilbert no. 1. I sure can't be responsible for people confusing my numbers with Gilbert. I set forth the equivalent with each variety and also in the Table of Equivalents in the back of the book. It is possible that this type of confusion will happen with old collectors who are used to the Gilbert numbers. Last weekend I had two new collectors from Baltimore at my house. They only know my numbering system and I had to translate to Gilbert numbers to keep from being lost. Who knows, maybe I'll learn my own numbering system. I am sure you realize that any revision of AHC will have to have a condition census and again ask your assistance on the project. I have been keeping better records since the publication of the book as quite a bit of information is coming my way from many sources. It will probably be many years before a revision is made if the book but a small supplement can be put out at a small cost. I am passing on the 1802 CMM1. The 1802 in my collection is the one which you previously owned with a hole. As you know I bought it from Raymond at \$750 but not without a struggle with myself. However I now have the variety and while not the finest known I do have it and that is the objective which I have set for myself "To own each business strike variety of the Half Cents." At the present time I only need 3 1794 CMM1b, 1796 CMM1, 1804 CMM2. Well enough of that. Some weekend in June Ray Munde and I are going to have another whist match. I'll probably lose again as the onslaught of MS 60-70 coins after 1825 is very hard to overcome no matter how many varieties I may have.

Hanson 2/8/85 Dear Bill, In regard to our conversation re G. Jon Hanson, please see the enclosed. I also enclose my letter back to him. These are out of a series of correspondence I had with a G. Jon Hanson from the period of 7/18/71 when I first wrote him to 7/25/72. The correspondence ceased I believe over a number of issues 1) at ANA in 1972 I purchased Munde's collection out from under his nose and it was 6 months before G. Jon Hanson even found out who got the coins he had unloaded on Munde 2) I was not a turkey customer such as Partrick and Munde although Munde said of G. Jon Hanson that "he was a gouger." The correspondence has 9 pages of this stationery all of which are the same with G. Jon Hanson and he never corrected me. I'm also enclosing his letter to me of 7/23/71 which was written as a result of my first letter of inquiry. This letter is famous to me as after reading it I made the decision to publish my first edition. PS now you know why I can spot G. Jon Hanson's handwriting on any envelope.

Hayes 3/23/83 I note in your book that your illustration of a late die state for the 1804 C-6 variety is a Brobston specimen. I have made the assumption, which may not be correct, that when you attribute a particular illustration to a particular individual (Brobston, Dupont, etc.) the variety being illustrated is of special importance with regard to condition, rarity, or both.

Hayes 3/26/83 Your assumption in regard to an illustrated coin is not necessarily correct. In the case of the 1804 #6 from the Brobston Collection, I just happen to own this coin and it was

illustrated in my first edition also. The photo is an acceptable one to illustrate one of the late die states of the variety. The variety is only an R-2 and the particular state is one of the more common ones. Many more specimens are known in higher condition than the Brobston one which is illustrated. So as you can see your assumption is not necessarily correct.

Hayes 5/587 I have enclosed a foil pressing of my 1809 C-1 which I believe to be in the lower end of the condition census for this variety. I grade the coin a F15 or so in terms of actual wear but probably nets around a VG8 or 10 as the coin is slightly bent, almost imperceptibly so. It exhibits a natural brown color and in my opinion has never been cleaned or otherwise tampered with. I cherry-picked this one at a small weekend coin show in Hutchinson, Kansas in 1982.

Hayes 6/11/87 The Top Ten series sure has come to a screeching halt for a number of reasons. The most important one is a lack of time on my part to get the data in order to run it in Penny-Wise. Secondly there are a number of other persons who are working on the condition census and as usual as fast as we get a listing another significant specimen shows up. It will probably be a number of years until something is published. More than likely it will be the work of a group rather than the work of a single person such as myself. The "Big Red Book" by Breen has created a rather large research project in separating fact from fiction, but after 3 years most of the questions have been resolved. He lists 11 1809 C-1 with conditions greater than VG-10, and lists the 5th specimen as VF-20, unattributed-Kansas Collector

Hayes 6/18/87 I noticed that your condition census listing for the 1809 C-1 variety contained a VF-20 example which you described as being unattributed and in the possession of a Kansas collector. I would be interested in knowing if you have more specific information regarding this Kansas example. I have a strong suspicion the coin I described to you in my recent letter (of which you received a pressing) and the Kansas example are one and the same coin. I lived in Wichita, Kansas from 1979 to 1984. As I mentioned in my previous letter I purchased my 1809 C-1 at a small weekend coin show in Hutchinson, Kansas in 1982. As I recall, I subsequently informed several EACer's (J. McGuigan, T. Reynolds, ?, ?) of my acquisition and described the grade as VF-20. I have since obtained a little better understanding of EAC grading and have reduced the sharpness grade to a F-15. At any rate, it would not surprise me to find the VF-20 Kansas coin and my F-15 coin on your condition census listing represent the same example.

Hayes 6/26/87 This example was reported to me by a man named Coffey at a show in February 1984. He also called me by phone about this. It may well be the same coin but my understanding was that he acquired the coin unattributed and still owned it. Perhaps you can give me a little more data to help. For example, since writing to you it has been concluded that the Norweb example is the discovery coin of 1809 #1, not the coin recently sold by Stacks. The difficulty here is that Richard Picker owned both coins.

Hayes 7/7/87 I am in receipt of your letter wherein you indicated the 1809 C-1 VF-20 Kansas example was reported to you by a Mr. Coffey. Dennis Coffey was my next door neighbor in Wichita at the time I acquired my 1809 C-1. Dennis recently indicated to me that he had mentioned my coin to you but did not recall saying that it belonged to him. In any event, The VF-20 Kansas coin and my F-15 coin are one and the same as I had suspected. Dennis did

cherrypick a 1794 C-4b at a Kansas City show during the same time period. I believe he subsequently sold this coin to Ricky Gross.

Hayes 7/10/87 Many thanks for getting this straightened out. It would seem that sometimes the details of coin ownership is not always mentioned specifically, thus my erroneous assumption that Dennis Coffey owned it.

Hazelcorn 2/1/72 Today my search ended for you at Harmer Rooke when a Mr. Weiner furnished me with your address. I have been trying to locate you since late 1969. You may or may not remember me as we only met one time. That was May 1969 in your coin shop. I had my young son with me on that occasion. I purchased 1794 G-1, 1797 G-3, 1805 FG-3, 1795 G-1, 1804 G-11, and 1797 G-4. The first 3 of these coins are pictured in my book. When I returned to New York your shop was gone and the building being torn down. I tried on numerous occasions to find out where you had gone. All I heard was that you were working for a stockbroker. Since you were no longer an EAC member all I got was your shop address. My letter was returned as "moved, left no address." Today when I found out the name of the firm I uncovered another coincidence. Who would have thought that I had heard of your employer., but I have. One of my ex-clients is going public through the firm. If you will look on the prospectus for the Urban Industries Corp. you will find that I was the certifying accountant for their October 21, 1969 financial statements. I have sent you a copy of my book on Half Cents by Parcel Post, which should take about a week. I suppose you are wondering why I'm doing this. There are a number of reasons. First of all you furnished me with a considerable update on the happenings in Half Cents during the period that I was inactive. You also furnished me a copy of your 1804 Half Cent article from Penny-Wise which had been run before I had even heard of EAC. Another thing I noticed was that you talked freely and did not try to conceal your knowledge of Half Cents. I got quite a bit from you other than a few coins on that visit. As you will see in my book I have been a Half Cent collector for 25 years although not always active. You may have forgotten but when I told you I had discussed the New reverse of the 1808/7 you said that you thought that a God, I mean Walter Breen had discovered it. Walter Breen is the reason I wrote the book. Back in 1952 when I first met him he was working on a book on Half Cents and in 1966, 14 years later when I started to collect again it still wasn't out. I started to investigate and I now know to a certain extent why it wasn't published but that would take 4 pages to explain. I came to realize that if someone didn't do something about a book on Half Cents nothing would ever be done. I realized in the course of investigation that Walter Breen had no control over me since I had been a collector long before he met me and he could never say that I plagiarized anything from him. This is another reason I am sending you a free copy of the book. From what I've been able to determine you got a raw deal concerning your 1804 Half Cent article. As recently as last month Bill Raymond wrote me that your article had been plagiarized from Breen's notes. Paul Munson violently disagrees with this and knowing Walter the way I do I agree with Paul. Sometime when we meet again let me know your side of the story. Shortly after I was in your store I started to work on the book. I went over everything that

Walter Breen had written and checked it out. This was easy as I have a pretty complete collection and the National Archives are here in Washington. I was greatly aided by Ray Munde who has a full library so take a look at my References and Acknowledgement section. You will note that God, I mean Walter Breen is not listed. He flatly refused to help me in any way. I also had help from Paul Munson. I could write pages on what I went through to put the book together but I won't. I would appreciate your comments on the book after you have read it. There are many points in this book that are not readily apparent on the first reading. Try using it to attribute and think about the emission sequence that I have for each date. Then write me your comments. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I have in writing it, and just remember Walter Breen can't cry plagiarism for in many instances I have deliberately taken a different view than he has. I have also questioned many of his conclusions.

Box 4

Bag of photos 3 x 5 of RSC's collection, along with folder of negatives of these photos dated 11/1987

Two envelopes containing loose coin envelopes, holders, inserts, invoices of many of RSC's coins

Small box containing Munde and Munson's envelopes

Folder containing receipts, invoices, and some envelopes of RSC Coins

Folder with a letter detailing his genealogy

Rifles

Folder with various material and letters pertaining to firearms, Civil War, Point Lookout State Park, and Civil War artifacts

Folder of Archives Research

The folder contains notes and photocopies of records from research at the National Archives

Folder with photographs of Cohen

RSC Business

Folder with various receipts from post office of lost items

Envelope with description of RSC coins for auction catalog dated 4/16/91

Folder with Sales tax forms and licenses

Folder with FPL #1 dated 10/1972

Folder with orders sold from FPL#1

Detailed sales records of coins to Ricky Gross, Bill Smith, Reiver, Cogan, Tett, and a large trade with Ray Chatham

11/29/72 1808 C1 three known 1) discovery specimen which I found and still have 2) found by Breen and sold to Hanson who sold it but doesn't remember who he sold it to! 3) found by Hazelcorn and sold to Hanson who sold it but as before when I asked him who he sold it to said "I don't remember". All of which I consider to be BULLSHIT and is the sort of thing that with time will be found out, but I suppose I'm only getting the treatment that a usurper deserves.

Smith 12/7/72 Some months ago Darwin Palmer gave me two issues of CalCoin news with an article on Half Cents by Wm. R. Weber of San Jose – also a listing of the Williams Sale, 1950 (Half Cent section). If you do not have either I can send a copy.

Cohen 12/12/72 Would you please send me a copy of the article by Wm. R. Weber which was in CalCoin News and the listing of the 1950 Williams Sale? Darwin Palmer, who lives about 20 minutes from my house to his, says he sent you the originals.

Folder with FPL #2 1988

Folder of orders placed from FPL#2 and PW ads

Salyards folder 1989 PW big coin ads for 3 editions, less than 100 copies of 2nd edition left, describes Breen's book with astrology, contains orders for 2nd edition and coins he sold as a dealer from 7/15-12/27/89 mostly from price lists in PW

RSC Collection

Folder labeled Half Cents containing material from RSC prior to 1970

a large picture of his 1808/7C1

MANA News from October 1954 and Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine article titled "Half Cent Miscellany" from December 1953 both written by Breen listing 1808/7 as unique and in Cohen collection

Abraham Hepner Obituary 1968

exhibitor at GENA 11/69 and coins

brochures by Paul Anderson

list of half cents in his collection in 1967 and the value of his coins in 1962

variety list from Breen RSC mentions in letters

Breen letter 1953

The folder has Breen's address and phone number in NYC on the inside front cover.

Munde Collection Purchase

Folder with inventory, valuation, invoice, bill, and loan for Munde's coins

10/23/72 FPL went out to about 25 people and response overwhelming

Promissory note dated 9/23/72 for \$22,878 + \$10,000 down = \$32,878

Installment payment records

Collection Cards and Inventory Record Sheets

Manilla envelope containing collection cards of the Half Cents in his collection at his death. These are in pencil and have been erased and updated as new coins were acquired or disbursed
27 pages of detailed inventory sheets of half cents, who acquired from (and when) and who sold to (and when)

“Red Book” Condition Census Records

Envelope containing Roger’s “Red Book” of records he kept of condition census coins

Half Cent Collection - Miscellaneous

Folder containing fascinating listing of the chronological order of obtaining his varieties, a timeline of important numismatic events in Cohen’s life prior to 1972, and a table of rarity equivalents including Breen Varieties

Large Cent Collection Worksheets

Folder on his large cent collection with worksheets, varieties owned, and pedigree

Half Cent Collection Worksheets

Folder with various worksheets of his half cent collections

Ownership of varieties and how disposed to 9/89

Half Cents in collection 9/89

Total number of coins owned to 1982

R-4 varieties and number owned to 9/89

RSC Collection 8/88

Worksheet on varieties not listed in Gilbert

Summary of R-6 varieties in various historical collections

Collection Summary of RSC + Munson + Munde

A few journal/worksheet papers including the Gross-Isaacs deal

Collection Costs

Brown notebook with running tally of coin collection costs as each coin is added (for all of his coins), with adding machine tapes from 1970-1989

Cohen-Weber “Megatrade 1988

Folder containing worksheets on the Cohen-Weber “megatrade” of 1988. Contains sheets describing coins, value, and how trade was put together.

10/21/88 Won’t historians have a great time going over correspondence like this in 50 years.

Who will be the Roger Cohen of 2038? Who will be the ALNB (Americas Leading Numismatic Bullshitter) in that year? Will “Ambassador Bill” have a counterpart? Stay tuned. We might

even live to see it even though we both will be over 110. I don't know if this will come true but I've had pretty good luck as a seer.

“My Favorite Coin” Article

Folder with article on his favorite coin.

Fixed-Price Lists

Folder with some fixed price lists and ads including one's from Jim McGuigan, Ron Guth, and J. J. Teaparty

Box 5 Miscellaneous Correspondence

Ivey 1/19/82 RSC I will not swear that it is a genuine coin beyond a shadow of a doubt as the work of counterfeiters past and present is not always able to be detected

Ivey 7/26/82 1793's do vary in size and weight slightly. The appearance of out of round has to do with two things. One is when the planchet was manufactured it was lettered. The lettering machine was set for a standard diameter. The lettering is weak and depending on the pressure exerted by the casting lettering machine will seem to make it more out of round. On the other hand the #4 I'm keeping was a little oversize and has a very deep lettering which raised bumps which were flattened in the striking process, thus the lettered edge. The second thing that makes 1793 appear out of round is the beaded circle which was cut in the die but was not always centered on the planchet when struck. A very good example of this is the photo of my variety #2 obverse in my second edition. My first edition does not show this feature as well. Back in those days in 1971 I had seen many less 1793's than I have now.

Jones 7/20/84 Your articles in "Penny-Wise" have provided me two sources of feelings, one of satisfaction and one of frustration. My first thought is "what is an average collector"? You seem to define this as a person who is just entering the field of collecting Half Cents and is unwilling or unable to afford more expensive specimens. I am very familiar with the concept. An excellent example was my treatment on the proof coins of 1825 – 1857 in my first edition. For the second edition I was literally forced to provide more information. If you have John Wright's review of my first edition from PW of 3/15/72 you will see what I am referring to. It was not only John's review but the fact I came in contact with other Half Cent collectors nationwide that created the change in me to seek out and view the more expensive but not necessarily better condition coins. Many persons have criticized my first edition for its photographs. On the other hand many persons have stated "we like your first edition because it shows coins in the condition we see them in, we never see these "high falutin" coins that are pictured in your second edition". Where does this leave me as the author of the book? First of all a book is a compromise created for the average collector as I define it. It should be simple enough so that the neophyte can read it and understand the main points of collecting by variety. It should not be so complicated that he is repelled by minutia. An excellent example of this is my keys to varieties. On the other hand the book should not be so simplistic that it repels the advanced collector! An example of this is the emission sequence which requires top cc coins to determine. I did not have many of the coins available to me at the time of the First Edition, thus my emission sequence for 1794 and 1804 have errors in the numbering systems. I did not change them for the 2nd edition due to opposition by every Half Cent collector I spoke to. As I have stated "so at best an emission sequence is an educated guess." To me the average collector cannot be defined except in a most generalized manner. You have placed the average collector as one who can only purchase inexpensive coins but I feel that the average collector can observe the more expensive coins. While he cannot currently own them he can be knowledgeable of them. This is where you fell

down in your definition of an average collector. You have restricted him to the business strikes of 1800 – 1857 without the proofs. I note that you refer to the 1802's as fascinating coins since they are overstrikes. Two more fascinating dates are 1795 and 1797 which have overstrikes. Why eliminate them for your average collector? Low grade examples showing the undertype can be purchased at rather modest prices.

Jones 7/30/84 I am disappointed at the strident tone you used in attacking my articles. I am a collector who assigns himself to attainable goals. I don't collect coins which don't interest me because someone else thinks I should own them. The proof-only half cents from 1831 to 1857 are another matter. The originals if they were struck in the year they are dated are collector's items. The so-called "restrikes", which were made during a period of low ethical standards at the mint for the personal profit of some mint officials, are to me about as interesting as the junk produced at the Franklin Mint. In short, why should I repeat what others, like yourself, have already done far better than I could ever hope to do? I admire your book very much, and I would be proud to meet you someday.

Jones 9/22/84 It was not my intention to write a strident letter and I hope you will forgive me. I hope you realize that I was only trying to be constructive. Having had the experience of being put down and kicked around in the field of Half Cents, I do not wish to assume the role of the "kicker". If you have gotten the latest book on Half Cents you will see who my "kicker" was and he's still doing it!!

Jones 12/10/84 I consider the Breen book to be a substantial departure from established numismatic standards, but only time will tell if collectors adopt the BS concept.

Jones 3/13/85 I will not be at EAC in Chicago. I'm a CPA with a rather large public practice and those final days are ones that require me to be at the office for 18 hours with 5 hours sleep. I told Don V. he couldn't have picked a worse time for me. I missed the 1984 in Calif. because it was at the end of March. My work is such that I can't do much of anything but work from about Feb. 15th to April 15th. Just one of the hazards of my life. I will try to see you this spring, as my daughter lives in Cambridge, Mass and I have a new granddaughter who due to my work I haven't seen yet.

Jones 4/26/85 This tax season was the worst one yet. More trouble particularly getting partnership information, and reconciling differences over information returns. We ended up with almost 200 automatic extensions which is more returns than I did in 1968 which was the first year I kept records on.

Jones 7/14/85 I'm enclosing a copy of an ad from the March 1948 Numismatist which might be of some interest. I remember this ad when it came out as I did indeed purchase a coin from it. The 1796 Half Cent. I also refer to this purchase in my book in section on "value". You may have noticed it previously. The ad was of great interest to me back in 1948 as in January 1949 I had turned 21 and my father gave me \$3300 which my grandfather had left me. I was collecting coins and was quite interested in both large and Half Cents. I seriously contemplated the purchase of the 1799! In the end however I didn't do it as it was just too much of a risk. Remember "don't put all of your eggs in one basket." I was going to college under the GI Bill

and I had no real financial problems etc. but I passed up another incredible opportunity I now know but didn't know then. I also now know where the good copper in the ad came from. None other than Dr. Sheldon. He was selling off coins from the Hines Collection.

9/13/85 You may know that Dave Bowers is of the opinion that the sun also rises and sets with Walter Breen! This type of thing is the basis of the current feud that he refers to i.e. the Cohen-Breen Feud. One of the most interesting things about Walter is to determine the source of his information. To date there is virtually nothing in the Half Cent field that Walter has written about that I do not know the source of his data. What I am finding out is that Walter is not original he is a mimic, an apert, but he puts the copied material out as his own which to my mind is most repugnant. Also Walter has an ego which is huge and he does not like criticism, whether constructive or otherwise. The ANA in Baltimore was the source of 3 more Sheldon Varieties for me. I'm now down to 7 varieties to complete the numbered set – S-11a, 37, 52, 53, 79, 96, and 217. Of course I need most of the NC's, I have only 3. I may get to Boston again. My daughter and her family are there again. My son-in-law is back at school. They spent the summer here in D.C. so I got to see a good bit of them.

Jones 10/28/85 Property of Jeff Rock, who has not replied to my letter of a month ago. This is the same person whose serial article on books is currently appearing in PW. In the last PW he had reviews of both my books and the "Big Red Book." I was rather surprised at his review. First of all he seemed to think my books were of some use and had some merit even though he failed to mention me as a present person "adding to the storehouse of numismatic literature." The second surprise was his comments on the "Big Red Book" and I quote "It's not the definitive work, nor was it ever claimed that it was. It does have its drawbacks. . . . If used, in a symbiotic relationship with the Cohen work . . ." The big surprise is to me is that Jeff Rock is currently "You Know Who's" fair haired boy!! Which is a subject you may not be familiar with! Just the same for "YKW" to now admit that his "Magnum Opus" is not perfect is a great surprise to me. This is in keeping with the methods that "you know who" operates under. As everyone seems to know he is now working on a Large Cent book which if not reviewed before publication will create a major fight among Large Cent collectors. What's going on really has my interest and I hope that I will live long enough to see the Large Cent book. I think that for Ron Guth to state that the coin is a genuine no pole is an excellent example of a person trading on his name in the Half Cent field to perpetuate a fraud. The differences were pointed out to him by me, Jim McGuigan, Steve Fischer, and Ricky Gross at the ANA. Just the same Ron relies on what "YKW" tells him. You can see now what creates controversy in the field and how persons get mad at others. Perhaps I should keep opinions to myself, and then no one can criticize.

Jones 11/4/85 At EAC regional meeting, the discussion eventually turned to Walter Breen, and I don't think he has too many fans up here. The topics included Breen's bathing habits, his use of mind-altering substances, and his tasteless attacks on Sheldon in PW.

Jones 11/27/85 discusses upcoming joint exhibit, however I want to emphasize that it's to be your display! You can mention I supplied certain coins.

Jones 11/25/85 I was thumbing through my copy of the "Giant Red Book" the other day when I reread "you know who's" (henceforth the Creator's) views on half cent literature. I thought you might enjoy my little satire on his criticisms. Class I The Infortunates (e.g. Gilbert) those who had to write their books in the dark ages before the birth of the Creator. Class II the Inspired (Empire-Bowers) those whose work was written with the divine guidance from the Creator. Class III The Damned (The Little Half Sisters) written by a heretic who was unwilling to wait for the words of the Creator Class IV The Word of God (The Giant Red Book) The words of the Creator (although now perhaps not the final words) which will be rivaled only by the Book of Large Cents which is due sometime in the next millennium. The Creator has already laid the foundations for the Book of Large Cents in his attacks upon Dr. Sheldon. Dr. Sheldon had the nerve to place his name on his own work even though the Creator had a hand in it. After all, the stubborn, inflexible Sheldon (who prevented the Creator from going to med school because of an unfavorable recommendation) went to his grave believing that the Head of 1794 Large Cents had been individually engraved. In fact the Creator has determined they came from a common head punch! Such an Ego!

Jones 2/14/86 I have been reading in PW that Mr. Breen is continuing his campaign against Dr. Sheldon. It seems that Mr. Breen's current strategy is to prepare a book and concurrently discredit all of those who have covered the area before him. It's a shame that "you know who" can't take a page from Sidney Noe who acknowledged that "We all stand on dead men's shoulders." Obviously, one does not publish a new work to replace a classic book unless it is some sort of an improvement over the old one, at least in the author's mind. It's a shame Mr. Breen has a psychological need to discredit others in order to enhance his own position.

Jones 6/1 and 8/10/86 At long last my copy of the 5/15/86 PW arrived yesterday and today I'm writing you about your rarity article. I'll try to fill you in on a few things. I'm sure you're aware that rarity is one of many things that was of great interest to me in putting out my first edition and as you note we're now at a well-established track record, however I would like to share with you some history as to how we got to where we were i.e. the beginning of phase two with the publication of my first edition in 1971. This may sound repetitious but prior to 1971 and beginning in 1952 "you know who" had a virtual hold on Half Cent information. Since you were not collecting then it may be hard to convey the extreme difficulty in getting information and the vacuum that someone like me who was interested had to live with. However if you were one of "you know who's" select group of friends you occasionally received some information, but the great aura persisted that somehow "you know who" knew it all. I now know from the "Big Red Book" that in reality he knew very little and one hell of a lot of this aura existed due to his desire to create it and the willingness of persons to accept it. This same approach exists in the "Big Red Book" however it's been greatly tempered by my writings and the fact I encouraged many persons to write for Penny-Wise without censorship. It's almost a shame you did not get interested in Half Cents 25 years ago so you could have experienced what I have in the field but it just isn't so and the present era of free exchange such as we're having now is a direct result of my efforts to rid the Half Cent field of its former Tin God. Now back to rarity. In 1953 "you

know who" furnished me with a list of Half Cent varieties cross-indexed from Breen numbers to Gilbert numbers plus rarity ratings. Incidentally the "Breen Numbers" were a straight through system such as Sheldon and occasionally are seen in old catalogues. I note that the "Big Red Book" does not use them nor are they even mentioned (another one of his many fiascos to be ignored). This list was the only new data I had as to rarity. In retrospect, as of 1971, the rarity ratings were way to high but not as high as the next bit of information that got out. This was the Bowers + Ruddy guide book published in 1962. If you have a copy you might refer to it and list the rarity ratings then list my 1st edition ratings. The changes were all my doing based on my experience but you must remember a number of things. 1) I had very little contact with other collectors compared to now 2) there were very few collectors of Half Cents then compared to now 3) "you know who" had flatly refused to even cooperate with me in any respect! 4) the rarity ratings in B + R were all "you know who's". I still don't know the whole story of even how or why this booklet was published but as of now it's only a historical question. At the time there was speculation as to the how and why of it. Particularly since "you know who's" Half Cent book was not published despite the 1952 pronouncement of its forthcoming. I hope what I've written helps you understand as to how we got to the beginning of Phase 2. The process you describe for Phase 2 is excellent and is an exact description of the process that resulted in the rarity ratings for my 1981 2nd edition. The process does not describe what came out in the "Big Red Book" which I will describe later. It is important that you review the rarity scale that I use. Note that contrary to the "Big Red Book" for R-1, 2, and 3 there are NO Numerical Designations. Perhaps there should be but if you will refer to both my 1st and 2nd editions I carefully note that rarity for R-4, 5, 6, and 7 is estimated. The "Big Red Book" on the other hand sets forth absolutes in the scale (except as to R-7) and then proceeds through a full page of logorrhea that does not explain the scale, rather it makes many denigratory remarks about Dr. Sheldon, laudatory remarks about "you know who" written by himself and reaches no conclusion other than "God has spoken". The problem arises due to the fact that "you know who" wrote the text except for the condition census. This was done by Jon Hanson. The Big Red Book suffers from not having an editor. "You know who" refused to allow it. I understand that the errata sheet in process is now thicker than my book (1st edition). The "Big Red Book" treatment of rarity is quite in keeping with "you know who's" historical approach to the subject. For years he has overrated the subject. This pattern continues. As a former writer of auction catalogues he overstates rarity in an attempt to create demand. In my opinion the "Big Red Book" is a great step backward in the never ending quest for accuracy in rarity! A week from today I leave for two weeks at Cape Hatteras, NC. It's a great place, no TV, no telephone, and no clients. I really stretch out and relax.

Jones 12/21/87 First of course I can't be at EAC 88 just look at the dates. Last month Frank Wilkinson photographed the main coins in my collection and he has all the negatives.

Jones 5/9/88 I too am sorry that EAC is settling into an April 15th date for an annual meeting each year. If I were paranoid I could blame it on "you know who" but I attributed it to a

“hardening of the arteries” that organizations get after a number of years. Sorry for the poor quality of my writing but am recovering from a slight spell of heart trouble (not unexpected). Jones 5/23/88 I was sorry to read that you have not been feeling well. I wish you a very speedy recovery, and my thoughts have been and will continue to be with you.

Julian 11/6/72 I too have spent time in the US Archives researching Half Cents and while I did not indicate the full extent of my research in my book I may have some information which may be of interest to you. Likewise you have apparently seen some documents which I did not in record Group 104. Your article in my opinion was excellent. I particularly liked the fact that you explained that many of your conclusions were guesswork. I have tried to do this in my book but unfortunately all too often what appears in print gets to be the gospel.

Julian 11/19/72 I hope you don't mind handwritten letters as I have never learned to type and my wife refuses to type for me. I'm afraid the job of typing the manuscript of my book is what led up to her refusal to type anything further. Do you have a copy of my book? If not let me know and I'll be glad to send you one at no cost. I would appreciate your comments on it. I am planning to revise it sometime in the future and you are the only person that I am aware of who could be critical of my archives research. I do not put Walter Breen in this category for reasons which will be explained in the letter further on. Perhaps I should explain at this point the purpose of my book. The purpose is to put into the hands of collectors a book which will enable them to easily identify the known varieties of the US Half Cents. Hopefully I will hear from the various readers of any unusual coins that they may have. In this respect I have been quite successful as every week over the last year as an average I have received more information. With this purpose in mind I'm sure you realize that all other information provided became peripheral and it is only included to give body to the subject matter. Perhaps I was successful in this. At least one reviewer thought so and I am including a copy of his review with certain sections underlined. With what I was seeking to accomplish you should now realize why I did not include a great deal of what I saw in the Archives. My reason for writing the book is succinctly stated in my preface where I wrote that the purpose of writing was that for 20 years I had wanted to read the book. I can expand on the subject but it would take pages. Basically, I found out that Walter Breen's book would never be published. I have known Walter for many years although not on a particularly intimate basis. I even asked him to assist me or let me assist him, both of which were rejected. I then realized that if someone didn't do something nothing would ever be done. Turning out the book was quite a job. I had to write everything up on paper such as this, get it typed, edit and correct it, get it typeset, proofread the type, paste up the pages, get it printed and bound, and finally distribute it. What it amounted to was a two-year job in my “spare time” which I have very little of as I have my own business which I often work 100 hours a week at. I noted in your letter about mistakes that got into your article. I've been down that road before as I have written articles (not on coins) which after editing by someone else were a disgrace. This is why I published my book without a professional publisher. My experiences

with most “editors” has not been good. Most of them have not a clue when it comes to specialized articles.

Julian 1/6/73 There is another pronounced difference in these two dies. This was first noticed by my daughter when she did the drawing for the cover of my book. She is a professional artist and her comment was “The first obverse was done by someone who was a skilled engraver and a person who was an artist. The second obverse is obviously copied from the first one.” The principal difference is the lower bust line, graceful vs. hooked. I do not agree with Breen that 5,090 1796 with pole were struck and 1390 no poles were struck. I asked Breen how he got these figures and he loftily replied that he based it on the survival ratios of 1796 poles to 1796 no poles. I don’t agree. Unfortunately Breen’s figures which first appeared in the NSM of December 1953 have been accepted as the gospel. I’ve got to have more proof than just Walter’s say-so which is no better than yours or mine. We have all worked with the same basic material from the National Archives. Gives example of Breen’s adding notes to Archives records. You mentioned that perhaps Breen will publish some of what he knows. Did you put this in to provide me with a laugh? In going over numismatic periodicals for the last 20 years or so Walter Breen has stated he was working on books of just about every facet of American Numismatics. To date I’ve only seen a few works on US gold Coins which are not usually collected by variety. I do know that in the 1958 Wayne Raymond Standard Catalogue it is stated that Breen’s book on Half Cents will be published later in that year. I’ve read so much BULLSHIT about what Breen’s going to do and what Breen knows that I’ve gotten to the point I question anything he says or writes. This is a major reason I wrote the book on Half Cents. His attitude towards me has been very antagonistic. It’s as if how dare I question God. Well I’ve done it and I will continue to do it and this started long before I started to write my book on Half Cents. No, Walter and I are not the best of friends and unless there are some major changes in his attitude we never will be.

1/14/73 My comments on Breen were really meant to be serious. On the other hand, I did most of the mintage figures for Taxay’s work on US coins and my refusal to accept many of Breen’s figures for the early cents led to quite a row with Taxay. I know many who like him less than you do (NSM, Coin World, for example) but Krouse (Coins Magazine) will publish virtually anything he writes. I suppose that the only thing to say is that I have mixed emotions.

Julian 9/20/84 Walter’s Half Cent book is in my opinion a real disappointment. There are many errors of fact in it and the avalanche of words makes hard reading for me. I have even noted many contradictions in the text. If you haven’t gotten a copy you should as your 1973 NSM articles are quoted very liberally. I am planning to write a critique of Walter’s book which will probably take a year but the poor scholarship in it just cannot in my opinion allowed to pass unnoticed.

Katman 8/31/72 I’m currently negotiating for a very large collection of Half Cents. It has 133 coins and 84 different varieties. If I get it I will have all 96 varieties listed in my book and would

pick up 43 upgrades but then I would have a pile of duplicates to dispose of. I'll let you know if the deal goes through if you're interested in acquiring any.

Katman 2/5/73 Right now its 3AM and I'm in the office to start the day. The first order of business is your letter. I kept thinking I'll break away and get to it but it just never occurred. January is probably even worse than April in that I have many businesses that need work that month that is more difficult than tax returns.

Katman 5/23/73 Bill Smith's coins which formerly were Ray Chatham's seem to have been sold very quickly. I was satisfied with the one's I got, actually I was buying for another collector. Smith sent me a list about a week before the general mailing.

Katman 5/31/74 I'm sorry to delay so long but my life has been in a turmoil for the last 6 weeks. I'll get back in touch when things get back on track so I can enjoy coins again.

Katman 7/16/75 Your article on p. 169 of the 7/15/75 P-W was nothing new to me and I'm writing as I feel that certain things need to be written. First: no where in the article do you give any indication as to your source of information. Perhaps it was edited out, but I believe that you should take the trouble to at least thank those persons who helped you assemble this information. Secondly: I know I was not the only one who helped you, but I think a little humility in your writing is necessary. Thirdly: I note you are the only person who wrote on Half Cents in this issue who is dogmatically insisting on Gilbert Numbers. Perhaps you missed Chuck Funk's letter in the March 15, 1975 issue of PW. His point 2 may be of interest to you.

Dear Roger, I got your letter of 7/16/75 and was red-faced after I read it. I will reply to your comments in order. 1st: You are correct 2nd: I agree if you replace the word Humility with Courtesy! Within the confines of EAC I am quite aware that I'm not top dog in Half Cents. In fact if you really look at the half cent buffs I probably won't make CC. As to Gilbert numbers, there just has not been enough time to replace them.

Katman 8/21/75 response to Robert Batchelder asking not to be part of a sales tax-avoidance scheme for Tom Katman that he was made part of

Katman 8/75 Your recent letter to Robert Batchelder was here when I arrived back from vacation. 1) The use of your name was solely my fault and not his! I thought I had spoken to you about this some time ago but obviously I didn't. I apologize for using your name and am sincerely sorry! I should not have done it without your explicit permission and can only plead guilty to a lack of good taste. Don't hold any of this particular incident against Mr. Batchelder as it was my fault. 2) From the sterile manner in which you notified me of your displeasure in this matter and the tone of your previous letter it is obvious that you are quite mad at me for this and other actions! While I do not hold any ill feelings towards you at all it is apparent that you find me a leper. Since the information flow was quite lopsided (you to me) I will not intrude upon your privacy and bother you. I am truly sorry you feel this was towards me but I will not force myself upon you in the future. Should my assumptions be incorrect please let me know! If you choose not to write I will understand.

Katman 12/23/76 You don't need my "approval" to send anything to PW for publication unless you are quoting from "American Half Cents". One of the things I have tried to encourage is the

writing of articles so that the body of knowledge of Half Cents will be increased. I am not a censor nor should my "approval" be solicited. I will make comments which should be free to do whatever a person wants to do with it.

Katman 1/17/81 I never finished my project in regard to the Red Book. Ken Bressett left Whitman and went with Kagin. What to do with the Redbook is complex. Anything that is suggested stands a very good chance of being edited to such an extent that it loses its meaning. There are also space limitations and you have to keep in mind it's not for the specialist. I have felt that the Red Book is designed to "hook" a person on coin collecting. As far as "American Half Cents" is concerned, I have 250 copies left. This should be good for 2 years. But I've got to get busy with my pencil to put down what's in my record book and head. I've started of course but like other prospective authors haven't finished. I'm planning a number of changes. I assume you saw the Stack's catalogue of Partrick's Half Cents. I wonder if he'll buy them back as he has done in the past.

Katman 1/13/82 What shall I talk about at the meeting on 6/26. I'll give you a number of subjects. 1) I can always give my talk on Half Cents with the slides which you used once 2) I could talk on the process of turning out the 2nd edition. I have kept all the papers and could make quite an exhibit. Also have photos. 3) If Breen's book is out I could point out the differences from mine.

Katman 1/1/83 I too am sorry that I'm winning my bet in regard to Walter's "Magnum Opus". Could it be that there is nothing in the way of info for them to add? I don't think so, but if you create obstacles such as Collins, Breen, and Hanson have you can't help but be tripped by your own actions. There is a world of difference between saying "I ought to write a book" and actually having such an item available for sale. Walter has "threatened" since 1952 and even if he had a book published do you think he would be accessible to persons interested in the subject? I'm sure you realize that I have been watching what has been going on in regard to Breen's book, particularly since Jack Collins announced in 10/81 that their book was to be a "sides" issue. You were to be on their side or Roger's side. You couldn't help Roger and them. Breen, Collins, and Hanson have of course modified this position and the happenings over the last 15 months are a saga in themselves which I may commit to paper to be published upon my demise if anyone is interested.

Lapp 10/14/83 In regard to my ad in PW 1) please run it in the November 15th, 1983 and January 15th, 1984 issues as it now reads. I plan a different ad for March 15th forward and will send it to you in plenty of time 2) can you get our treasure to send me a bill? As usual, the latest PW is great. As I said the EAC got a MS-70 editor and he continues to be MS-70 – no wear.

Lapp 12/12/83 I hate to answer question 1 with a question to you but why am I asked this question? There is No communication now between me and the person who so grandly announced another Half Cent book was going to be published. The first time was in May 1952 (see "The Numismatist" for that month) and this continues to the present moment. On a number of occasions I have verbally and by letter asked for cooperation. I have been rejected verbally

and my letters have been ignored. I have come to the conclusion that this person now has nothing to be added to what has already been published on Half Cents by others. Thus eventually nothing will be published which is in keeping with the present 32 year record of promises but no production.

Lapp 8/27/74 Would you please run the enclosed ad for the next 3 issues 9/15/84, 11/15/84, and 1/15/85. Now that the Breen Book is out, I think I need some advertising.

Leonard 2/27/90 I was disturbed to learn of your illness recently and have a suggestion concerning possible cause/diagnosis. Is it possible that having brushed past a certain unclean, unkempt, disorderly, hirsute individual at any time in the recent past you were bitten by one of the beetles, the spelling of which I wouldn't attempt, about which you tell such uproariously funny stories and which surely infect the person of said certain ragamuffin? If so I'd sue him down to his sandals! Seriously, do get well quickly. We need you back in full voice!

Loring 1/8/74 I do collect large cents as well as Half Cents. What I'm trying to do is assemble a reasonable variety set. Since I'm not too concerned with condition the Ruby coins seem to me to be a chance to acquire a number of varieties. I currently have 151 with nothing higher or rare than R-6. My reason for writing has to do with the comments on rarity which I read in the catalog. What I am concerned about is the apparent unwillingness of the cataloguer to admit that the actual rarity is less than what the variety has been held out to be in the past. The fact that "cherrypicking" has reduced rarity is an important fact. Most of the comments seem to downgrade the "fine art of cherrypicking" to the level of picking up worn copper discs which are considered to be barely identifiable as varieties. To me overstating rarity is just as bad as overgrading condition which has filled pages of numismatic literature in the past.

Loring 1/17/74 Although I wrote 95% of the Ruby LC descriptions, Breen did add some material, and the comments you refer to are primarily his. Good Lord, I would be the last one to denigrate the fine art of cherrypicking – that's how I put much of my collection together. Perhaps Breen was under a little merchandising pressure from Superior. What can I tell you? I just called em' as I saw em', and I guess Breen was assigned the job of plowing a middle ground between my descriptions and a straight-out advertising job.

Loring 1/22/74 I had felt there was a good chance that Breen had added those comments. There is no doubt that Breen was one of the "early" cherrypickers but as time has gone on "Johnny come lately's" have equaled or exceeded his finds. I have noted in the past writings of Walter a sort of "sour grapes" approach to some of the more recent finds and finders. If you think that I'm right on this for large cents just picture what I've had to put up with on the Half Cents. Did you notice there was absolutely no mention of my book in the Ruby Sale? Walter has gone to such great lengths to ignore my book that he is underselling Superior. Your question as to how do I find the LC series compared to the "Little Half Sisters". There is great similarity but as with the coins everything is smaller. Demand, offerings, available specimens, varieties, etc. I do note some differences such as Half Cent collectors seem to be more concerned with die states. I think

this is due to the number of die varieties. In my particular case I now have all the Half Cent varieties listed in my book, and for the last year I have only been upgrading. I have a long way to go to achieve the condition of the Showers Collection. About 6 months ago I got to thinking that upgrading really doesn't interest me as much as looking for new varieties. So I started with my date and major type large Cents 1793 – 1814. I also reasoned that with Merkins sale in October, New Netherlands sale in November, and the Ruby sale that a number of scarcer varieties would be available, if not in the sale, than the upgraded coins of the buyer. In this respect I've had some success. I don't know LC's the way I do Half Cents and I have quite a bit to learn although my Half Cent experiences have considerable application to LC's. I do however enjoy learning far more than teaching so I may be around in Large Cents for some time.

Loring no date I'm aware that there's a wee bit of friction between you and Uncle Walter, and I'll keep far away, thank you (I like you both). WB has deferred to me completely on the early LC's, so we have no hassles. I understand you'll be the half cent maven on the EAC Annual Meeting Panel.

Loring 11/7/74 The only thing else new is that at the ANA I reacquired my S-15 after a 20 year hiatus. Shalowitz sold it to me at what I consider to be a reasonable price. Even more to me is the fact that I parted with the S-15 so I could buy a house which was later sold and the proceeds put into another house. This year in the process of dumping my wife I had to part with my half interest in the 2nd house but just the same I now am rid of a millstone from around my neck and I have my S-15. 1974 has been one of the best years of my life.

Loring no date the Great Shal told me you got the S-15 back – glad to see two old friends reunited. I always liked that coin, and was tempted to keep it, but it just doesn't fit in with the set I'm assembling.

Loring 5/9/80 Got your note in regard to my blast at Ward for sticking his nose into something that's none of his business. That was the reason for the stamp! If you would like one of these stamps for your personal use I can get you one. I've used mine very liberally on many occasions such as the Half Cent section of the Ruby sale. The above however is not the purpose of this letter. At the risk of sticking my nose in your business I would like to pass a few ideas about writing a book. I'm doing this because of comments that I've heard you make relative to the task you have publicly assumed and to protect you from the fate of Breen in many areas. The job of writing a book is really easy! You can take the 7th grade outline which Pete Smith sent and throw it in the trash! My reaction to it was that, or more pointedly; here are instructions for complete sexual fulfillment written by a virgin. So much for that. In my case I started with paper just like I'm writing you on now and prepared an outline of my format. I started with "Early American Cents" which I've owned since October 1949. I've never owned "Penny Whimsy" as I do not believe it added anything to "EAC" for my purposes. The basic outline I prepared after some thought is on Page VII of my book. I then wrote an easy chapter, in my case it was 1800 (one die variety). I then had it typed and looked at what I had done. Did it make sense to me? Was it logical to me? Was it simple enough for a layman to understand? Was it comprehensive enough for an advanced collector? This point troubled me as condition census

data was lacking but I felt that I would eventually get this data. I didn't have it then. You do not have this problem. Despite what Dame Niesen wrote about S-17 do it your way! I then proceeded to write each succeeding chapter for 1800 to 1809. Then back to 1793 through 1797 and 1809 to 1857 and the other sections of my book. I went through each section, handwritten and then rough typed draft. The changes and corrections went on and on. I went back over chapters and changed this or that. Now how much time did it take to do this? The outline was done in November 1970 and by January 1971 I was through 1808. Due to my work I had to put it down from January to May 1971. I finished the rough typed drafts in June 1971. During May I had Jules Reiver take the photos. That was one full day devoted to the book but the rest of the time it was 1 to 4 hours when I wanted to do it! During this period I also sent drafts (with copyrighted notes) to Munson and Munde. Both of them responded when they wanted to. If I didn't hear from them I went on. I was constantly making changes, adding things and deleting things so that my triple spaced rough typed draft was well marked up. I then had a smooth draft typed. There was an interlude that followed when I tried to obtain the cooperation of Walter Breen and Jon Hanson. Needless to say I was totally rejected. My attitude was I tried but they can now "go piss up a rope". The next steps were unbelievably easy. A client of mine is in the typesetting business. He outlined for me the steps necessary. His firm would make a sample page which they did in September 1971. There was a charge. The double column per page was used. The typesetting firm then set type in what is known as "galleys" which I had to proofread. This was mainly a battle to correct typographical errors. However I did pick up a few points of information which I had inserted into the final product. The next step was the "paste up", in which I took the corrected "galleys" and laid out the book with blank places for photos and drew the emission sequence. The typesetting firm then made up what are known as "blue lines" which are the final steps before printing. My typesetting client had a printing firm run them and they in turn had a bindery in Baltimore do its indicated task. The finished product all 2000 of them were delivered to my business on December 28, 1971. There were of course other decisions made along the way but with the guidance of my client they were all very easy. So after 4 pages if you haven't lost interest this is the story of my opus. I hope it will be of some help to you and if it isn't fine but remember I'm sticking my nose in your business!

Loring 5/23/80 By all means send a stamp- three of them if possible, as I have a couple of friends that would make good use of one. I do appreciate your encouragement on the book. Without going into details here are the wrinkles: 1) I've got a large amount of pure prose to rework – the whole first part of PW. 2) I'm damn good with the English language (spent three summers as a technical writer and editor), and am somewhat of a perfectionist as to my writing. It's hard to write well in bits and snatches. 3) For reasons I won't go into, I've lost nearly all motivation to do this thing. I just don't care. 4) I'm interested in too many things – don't have nearly the time to do all I want to do in life. At any given moment, there are at least three things I'd rather be doing than writing a book. Like a typical ??, it's much easier to start things than to finish them. And that's the way it is. This summer, I may bite the bullet, take a leave of absence from work, glue myself to my desk, and finish the manuscript. After that, someone else can carry the ball.

Loring 9/15/85 Today I read with great interest Walter Breen's paper at ANS of last November. I consider this to be of some importance as it is probably what Large Cent Collectors are to be treated to when the "Encyclopedia" is finished. A number of questions came to mind as I labored through it, some of which might be of interest to you. I also have some observations. First of all I find Walter's style of writing to be horrible. He mixes obscure high-brow words with current vernacular words and phrases. I consider this to be the result of his extensive reading combined with his natural low-brow tendencies. What he does is to mimic with a vivid imagination and set forth a barrage of words. The thoughts are all mixed up, with numerous asides that confuse and raise extraneous issues. His Half Cent book is filled with this and I'm not going to review what's wrong with it, volumes would be necessary, but my concern is what we large cent collectors are to be faced with. Secondly, I do not believe Walter knows it all when it comes to the minting process and condition census even though he would like us to believe this. What is happening is that he is picking everyone's brain who will let him do so and then putting these ideas out as his own! In many cases some Large Cent collectors are going to be in for a rude shock when the next "Encyclopedia" comes out. This has already happened in the Half Cent field and is the reason for some of the controversy that has made print. What I observed in his ANS paper is as follows. 1) What does Walter have against Robert Scot? 2) Walter tries to create a mystique for his assumptions that he puts forth as proven facts. A good example is the dream episode of June 2 on page 17. Granted that such things do happen, why does the reader have to be subjected to this balderdash? 3) Why is Walter leaving no stone unturned or any chance he gets to belittle Dr. Sheldon? I did not personally know the Good Doctor but his approach to large cents was one of his own making which to me was a friendly one. Walter can pursue his own course through his writing but is the attack on Dr. Sheldon necessary for large cent enlightenment? 4) Walter's knowledge of machine tools and metallurgy is very defective. Despite my current profession I was at one time a machinist (many years ago) and I can tell Walter has never used any complex machine tools. Thus his section on how Half Cents were made in the "Big Red Book" is a big load of BS. This section is referenced too many times in his ANS article. His descriptions of hubs and the making of dies, device punches etc. is most incomplete and contradictory. It reaches the point of absurdity on page 27 of the ANS article. Since you are cited as 'independent confirmation' on page 28 perhaps you can let me know where in "Penny-Wise" I can find your writing. Thus Walter's statements including your "independent confirmation" seem to be the product of a vivid imagination, put forth as a proven fact. When in reality as with the greater majority of Breen's writing it is just a lot of Bullshit or if you prefer Balderdash. What do you think? As you can see my spelling needs correction.

9/27/85 Let me respond to your points in order. 1) Yes, Walter's style is difficult. He does mix extremely difficult prose with simpler language, and his thinking is often non-linear. I can read him, though it's often a challenge. My hope is that the LC Book will be written at a level accessible to most EACers. I think the ANS paper was aimed at a more sophisticated audience, and he had the brain power and pen running at full throttle. You have a valid point, though. I'll pass it on to Jeff Oliphant, who's overseeing the project. 2) Yes, Walter makes mistakes. He

may have been more of a guru ten or twenty years ago, but he's still pretty bright.

Unfortunately, many people think that WB speaks only gospel. My job, and that of the others involved with the LC revision, is to separate fact from fiction. If Walter has something against Scot, I have no idea why. Sheldon is something else. WAS made a tremendous contribution to numismatics, but he was also a self-aggrandizing liar and a thief. We can talk about it sometime if you really want to. Now I have two for you. Please excuse the bluntness. 1) How did the half cent wars, starring WB and RSC in the leading vendetta roles, get to where it is now? 2) what will it take to put an end to it?

Loring 10/5/85 letter not sent Thanks for taking the time to answer my previous letter. I do think that it is very important that Large Cent Collectors including myself have something to say and to exert some control over the next book on the subject. How can this be done? I don't have a specific answer but perhaps I can outline what has happened in the Half Cent area which may give some clues and answer some of your questions to me. The publication of my First Edition in 1971 created the basis for two things 1) a great acceleration of interest in ½Half Cents 2) WB-RSC controversy. When the book was published as I noted in it preface I had waited 20 years for its publication. I was of course referring to WB who for 20 years had preferred to promise rather than publish. WB knew my book was in process prior to publication. Both Munde and Munson as well as myself tried to enlist WB's cooperation which was flatly and at one time (8/1971) vehemently refused!! For WB this was not the first time this had happened. Others had said they were going to publish and by ignoring them WB had effectively retained his status as the "Big Daddy of Half Cents." My book was different from what had previously been published. It was easily used and it was simplistic at first glance. It was only after one read in detail sections on Emission Sequence,, die preparation, and my National Archives material throughout the book that the complexities emerged. I did it this way deliberately. I wanted people to think, I wanted them not to take my word for something but to go out and investigate and think for themselves. I also wanted to be in contact with people interested in half cents. For too long a period WB had controlled this. That's why my address was in the book. My goals with the first edition have been more than realized. I created a great deal of interest in Half Cents. Virtually every collection established contact with me with one exception. The collection of R. Tettenhorst was started as a result of the First Edition which today is the most important one ever for Half Cents. The one exception was and still is G. Jon Hanson. However since the publication of Breen's Book his importance has greatly diminished. WK Raymond wrote me a letter after the first edition came out and called me "the usurper." Which will give you a good insight as to WB-type thinking. Interestingly enough Bill Raymond was and still remains a person who has learned to think for himself and has played a very important role in my 2nd edition and a lesser one in the Breen book. WB's reaction to my book was to ignore it! It was only in 1981 when he started for the 3rd time to write a manuscript that he even bothered to read it. His reaction to it shows in his book where he does everything he can to belittle me, my collection, and my book. So much that most every advanced collector of Half Cents has said to me "what does WB have against you?" Thus I believe at this point in this letter I have covered

the controversy issue. I'm not sure it should cease all together. The somewhat competitive viewpoints add "grist for the thought mill" for those persons who want to pick up the "grains." I do know that WB is a lousy National Archives researcher. He reaches conclusions not supported and in some cases contradicted by the Archives records themselves. Can you imagine my incredible amazement back in 1970 when I started my Archives research and read the same documents that WB did and arrived at another conclusion? Then writing to WB and asking him to clarify his published statements and to have these letters ignored? Enough of this I'm getting a little afield. The story of the publication of Breen's Half Cent book is one that I'm not sure of all the details but one that I have watched and believe I have some knowledge of. Its beginning seems to be Jack Collins (another Breen Blow boy) who organized the effort to reestablish WB as the guru of Half Cents. His first step was the acquisition to the rights of "The Ugly Duckling", an unpublished 1966 manuscript by WB on Half Cents. He then introduced the subject in "The Asylum" the publication of the NBS, I'm sure you've heard of it. My reaction was to write a letter where I blasted the misleading editorial comment. Jack even saw fit to publish the exchange of letters. He then approached certain persons and explained to them that the publication of the Breen book was to be a "sides issue" i.e. you were either on their side or Cohen's side. Three collectors (WK Raymond, Bill Weber, and Jack Beymer) told me about this and they were amazed. Why a sides issue? I told them this was the level that was desired and they should do whatever they wanted to. The October 1981 Coin Show at Long Beach was one of the most interesting ones I ever attended. At the EAC Meeting Jack and WB announced that the Breen book was to be published. WB was to spend the next 3 weeks at Jack Collins home preparing the manuscript and the whole thing was to be out in 3 months. At this meeting I attempted to again achieve some degree of cooperation. I again was flatly rejected. Others tried to achieve cooperation. Jack Beymer for one, only to be treated to icy stares and flat rejection. Interestingly enough I had at that time completed the manuscript of my Second Edition and was willing to do most anything that would lead to a cooperative book on Half Cents, but the net result was nothing solely due to WB. In the Breen book the only mention of my second edition is the statement that a revision is in the press, yet in fact there is information that could only have come from it. My Second Edition was released to the public in February 1982. The original objective of 3 months for publication of the Breen book did not occur. Rather it took until August of 1984 (35 months). There were many reasons. 1) My Second Edition contained much new material which had to be reckoned with and if possible ignored or belittled 2) the level of expertise among collectors was greater than WB and Jack Collins and G. Jon Hanson ever imagined mainly due to my publication and the writing of others in PW. If they ignored it they would be subject to ridicule 3) the discovery by WB that the R. Tettenhorst collection existed and the depth of it 4) the desire by WB to exceed anything previously done i.e. my publication 5) the most important cause of delay was financial problems. I don't know how WB finally got his finances in order but I've heard all types of rumors which now are of no importance since the book is available. The final product is in my opinion as well as many other collectors a real botch job, but not unexpected by me. The group which turned it out was under WB's control and

no one was allowed to edit or point out mistakes. In short WB was God and how dare anyone, even his henchmen, question him! This then Denis is my real concern. Is the Large Cent book to be a repeat of the Half Cent book? A disgrace to the EAC, a volume filled with pontifical statements with no basis in fact, a work with high-brow language mixed with vernacular, a book where WB settles grudges against certain persons who he dislikes. I certainly hope not! The real problem is if the EAC is to put its imprimatur on WB's work will it be what Large Cent Collectors want it to be? I don't have the answer to these questions! The answer rests with the EAC itself and ultimately the membership both present and future. Thus the answer to my question now rests with the EAC officers as of now. I will now outline what I would do if I were "running the railroad". The most important way to control WB is through finances. In exchange for financial help to WB and the blessing of EAC, WB must be subject to a review committee and that committee's decision will be final! I don't know if this will be acceptable to WB as, if the past is any guide, there will be problems but it should be made clear to him. If he does not accept these conditions then the EAC should go elsewhere. If the EAC is rejected the Club should do some things now!! Formally announce WB is not working with EAC blessing and get other people to start working and provide them with financial backing if necessary. So as you can see I don't have all the answers but also I do have GREAT concern! I believe the EAC's reputation is "on the line" in the current project that WB is working on. Unless control over him is exercised the EAC may end up as a loser. What are your thoughts on this rather long letter? N.B. I just got back the "review committee" result on my article sent out by Doc Lapp. I will of course accept Doc's editing. I read your answer and believe you now have more insight into the "Half Cent wars".

Loring 10/7/85 At some point I may fill you in on what you call the "Half Cent Wars". I also noted this term in your note to Doc Lapp. Incidentally since it's now almost 1986 and the delegation thinks the article is not too good and you think it shouldn't be published I'll go along with this. Back to the "Half Cent Wars". What have you been hearing? I'm enclosing what you might consider another salvo but note that Jack Collins is an easy target and he is the one who publicizes. It's almost like I press a button on my desk here on the East coast and an explanation occurs on the west coast. I would like to know if possible what the EAC has commissioned WB to do on Large Cents and what are the terms. Unless the EAC exerts some control over WB there is likely to be a "Large Cent War" that will make the "Half Cent War" seem like child's play.

Loring 10/20/85 I'm not close enough to the half cent community to know the latest goings-on. Hell, I don't even know whose side (if either) some of the big names (e.g. JRM, Guth) are on. All I know is that there's a Breen-Collins camp and a Cohen camp, and there ain't much love lost between them. As far as I know, WB's charge is to write an LC book similar to the half cent book. Del Bland is doing the CC; I (and others) are contributing what we know on rarity, die states, etc. Jeff Oliphant is overseeing the project. If you want your opinions heard, I'd suggest you write to Jeff. Large Cent Wars? Won't happen. I'd be the natural leader of the opposition, and frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.

Lund 9/28/79 I don't sell coins by mail. Its just too much trouble packing them and then having them returned. I may or may not have coins you want. Perhaps I'll be at an EAC Meeting when you are present. I will not be at the "Half Cent Happening" in Ann Arbor in November, prior commitment.

Lund 4/27/81 Despite your comments about "backup boxes" I have been selling a number of my duplicates mainly because of a very bad real estate investment I got into. I really feel like an ass with as many times as I advised clients not to go into only to fall into a morass myself. At the last EAC Meeting in Washington back in March 1980 I sold quite a few. It was interesting. The dealers purchased over 70% of what I sold with no haggling over the price. The collectors spent a lot of time going over my coins and wanting to know where I got the coins and when and wasn't I charging a high price etc. One 1802 Reverse of 1800 Variety #1 in G6 was turned down by a collector at \$2000. I sold it to a dealer at the same price and the collector purchased it from the dealer for \$2500 before the show was over. I have sat on both sides of these transactions and I know it's sometimes very hard to make a decision when buying. When you are selling there doesn't seem to be much reason to haggle the way the demand for these coins seems to be.

Lund 8/13/81 I believe there are a fair number say 50 persons at any one time who are actively seeking Half Cents by variety. I recently compiled a list of Half Cent collectors known to me and found it to consist of 35 persons, not including dealers and persons who use my book just to cherrypick

Lund 1/22/84 As to Walter's book what can be said. I asked for my money back several years ago. At the regional EAC meeting Bill Weber stated that it won't be out before September of this year. I'm not holding my breath! It certainly will be a wonderful reference but I'll carry my Cohen to every coin show. The two books are simply different and both have their places. I wish you and Walter would believe that.

Lund 1/25/84 Your comments on Walter's book are of some interest. Despite the impression that is created that I'm anti-Walter, I would like to set forth a few things. First, I truly wish the book would come out, despite my sarcastic comments such as I've been waiting since 1952, which is true, and I use this fact to needle Walter, Jack Collins, and G. Jon Hanson. Secondly, any input into the body of knowledge of half cents is desirable. Theories, ideas, etc. are what creates the body of knowledge. In short, the more people write the more we learn. It is also true that theories are sometimes accepted only to be later disproven and hopefully discarded. Thus you can see I am not anti-Walter, rather I say "jump in the pool with the rest of us half cent nuts" and let's see what you have to say. The problem with this approach is that Walter cannot and will not accept this. The reason is that it's a democratic approach. Walter's approach is that only he can write the final word on half cents. Everyone must be subservient to him. This is why he exhibits such contempt for me. To Walter I am a usurper, thus to be ignored and ridiculed. Walter could never accept the fact that his book would be used in conjunction with mine. Your paragraph to me in that regard would be totally unacceptable to him. So it appears to me that Walter does not want the democratic approach to the subject of a common body of knowledge

for Half Cents, rather he wants to be king even if self-appointed. Knowing this to be Walter's approach I rather enjoy seeing him squirm when I needle him. The unfortunate fact is that an atmosphere of rivalry is created. On the positive side however is Walter's desire to top whatever I've written. Thus we, meaning the collectors of half cents, can possibly benefit when and if his 32 years of promise of a book is fulfilled. I hope that the above will help you understand what in the hell is going on. The latest wrinkle on the on-going rivalry is the series of articles in Penny-Wise called the Top 10. If you will note I put out in the Second Edition a condition census by adjectival grades hoping that the Breen-Collins work would provide us Half Cent collectors with numerical grades and chain of ownership (pedigrees). About a year ago Ron Guth wrote to me again to start the series. Since the Collins-Breen book was still stalled and I heard that only adjectival grades were to be used I said yeah let's go ahead to Ron, only I want as many people in on this as we can get without being overrun with help. You can see from the last issue who is working with Ron and me. The only other person who could help is G. Jon Hanson as Walter and Jack are not collectors. Again the idea of a democratic approach is being made and hopefully Mr. Hanson will put his toes in the "pool".

Lund 7/24/84 not sent It takes time to do the Top 10. First I start with the book I've kept for years. I then start the listing for each variety and check the sales or auction catalogues for lot number and price. I'm finding each variety takes at least three hours. Then I mail out and await the replies. This takes more head-scratching and often times a number of phone calls. Then I submit it to Doc Lapp whose typist makes a number of typos that don't get corrected. I hope to get this straight in a later issue. I'm sure you're aware that the Breen book has been printed and now only lacks binding which should now be no great obstacle. Who knows we may have it for review before December 31. I have received some pages of what I consider to be the first printer's efforts. I'll wait till the book is out to comment directly on what I saw. Willard Blaisdel was a collector of both large and half cents by variety from Elizabeth, NJ. In 1976 Willard sold his Half Cents to Del Bland and W. K. Raymond. You mentioned that "Breen book plate proofs said the whereabouts as unknown" and you then mentioned "it was odd as WB had seen the coin several times." I may be able to enlighten you on this. The cc for Breen's book was made up by G. Jon Hanson. I doubt Walter was even involved in the CC. Walter has many other fish to fry. Hanson is only interested in "the Best". Did you notice on the page proofs that "California Collector's" coins almost always was the first one listed? It was only now and then that "Missouri cabinet" made it to the top of the list. Jon Hanson is a condition snob. To him anything less than the finest in his eyes is to be ignored or belittled. I don't know if you were collecting Half Cents prior to 1971 but I was. In the 20 years prior to that I collected and got damn tired of being "High Halted" and belittled for my efforts. Breen and Hanson always wanted information but refused to divulge anything. In short I was not one of the elite. In spite of what has happened to them over the last 13 years they still haven't learned their lesson. The cc information that I've seen is both inaccurate, filled with coins that haven't been reported since 1945 (mainly to conceal a lack of knowledge), and missing many major discoveries of the last 20 years. The reason for the missing discoveries is that they don't want to hear about a person

cherrypicking. If they do it it's ok but to them we are like "little mice" who are ruining their preconceived notion that are put forth as the Gospel. If you noted any of Breen's writing about rarity it goes like this: "R-5. Was formerly a R-7 but thanks to cherrypickers is now at this level. Most of the coins however are well-worn and low grade." I say why all the verbose? For rarity it is or it isn't. What the rarity was 30 years ago is immaterial. To me it indicates an unwillingness to accept the new rarity rating. To me this detracts from the scholarship of the book. Oh well, have I lost you? I sort of feel I'm unloading on you.

Masuoka 1/28/88 I do believe there have been some errors in reporting the 13 varieties of 1794. This is due to the fact that Breen uses different A + B designations from me and his numbering system is different.

Masuoka 8/9/88 I am returning your slides and a set of duplicates made from them.

Masuoka 10/24/88 At a coin show last weekend I saw a copy of the first edition of AHC on sale for \$45. I thought you would be amused at how much your reference has appreciated in value in some quarters. RSC replies Thanks Ed, peace and harmony at home is better than all the Half Cents in the world. Elsworth catalogues his Half Cents according to a listing by a person who looks like Santa Claus, but who just copied my list and made a few changes so he could not be accused of plagiarism. Thus his A + B for edge lettering follow a consistent pattern, A is for large edge lettering and B is for small edge letters. Not like mine which only had (in 1971) # 1 and #2 and I selected the B to be the unusual one. This method of mine is clearly unscientific and should be reputed? by any person who collects half cents. The amazing price for my first edition is offset by the person who I met at a Stack's auction who told me he paid 25 cents for his copy of my 1st edition. He bought it at a yard sale and he said the book was addictive as he outbid me at the sale.

Masuoka 11/9/88 details of swap with Golden State Collector. This was not an even trade, some cash changed hands.

Masuoka 2/7/89 thanks again for leading the discussion on possibilities of a new Half Cent reference work. A number of people came by after the meeting and told me how much they enjoyed the presentation. I'm sending a copy of your price list to Rod Widok and Ken Seachman. Both collect and sell half cents and would be interested in seeing what you have to sell.

McGuigan 7/9/73 Finally while I do not want to seem unappreciative, I am returning the \$5 you sent me for postage. Postage fees, along with the expenses of trips to coin shows, purchase of auction catalogs and prices realized lists are a necessary part of making wise coin buying and selling decisions. Seeing the coins you sent I am sure will help me make more intelligent purchasing decisions in the future.

McGuigan 12/3/77 Jon and I were pleased that you could attend our half cent get-together. I found the session very educational and I am sure the others did also.

McGuigan 12/10/77 It was good seeing you and Debby I had a great time at Jon Lusk's even if we couldn't smoke.

Montgomery 1/19/79 I wanted to compliment you on your Proof article, not so much for the content but for your refusal to be censored. Perhaps I was too harsh in my book in regard to the Proofs. John Wright says I relegated them to 2nd class citizenship, but in any event when I revise I would like to expand the section or perhaps have a separate section on them. I believe that when date collecting got its big boost upon the discontinuance of the large and half cents in 1857 some employee of the mint decided to help collector demand for certain half cents dates which were impossible to find in circulation but existed. Thus the restrikes from the Mint. To my knowledge Walter Bren was the first one to point out that the small berry reverses were different. I don't know whether he discovered this himself or was told by someone or read it somewhere. I first heard of it in 1953 from Walter when he gave me a list he had made up of Half Cent varieties.

Montgomery 10/11/84 Thank you for the opportunity to review your forthcoming ANS presentation. I remain fascinated by your approach and have no difficulty with it.

Montgomery 7/16/88 I trust this will find you in better health and able to attend the PNA show. Perhaps you can be my guest at dinner? RSC replies Thanks for your invitation to dinner at the PNA Convention. I'm still on the no-travel schedule as per my doctor so I can't be there. I'd sure like to hear your talk on the 1811 restrike but "DOCTOR'S ORDERS".

Montgomery 7/27/88 R. Tettenhorst (this name makes almost as much sense as Donald Groves (?) Rev. Harry Stewart (?) alias for Jimmy Swaggart; I don't know R. Tettenhorst's real name). I have reviewed, amended, deleted etc. my comments numerous times. How'd you ever write your masterpiece and then return for a (Second Edition); and maybe a third?

Munson 9/28/73 As you have probably noticed persons other than myself are writing about Half Cents on the pages of "Penny-Wise". It's about time and if you'll notice America's Leading Numismatic Bullshitter (WB) is taking a beating. I now propose to give him another belt with the enclosed article which I plan to submit to "Penny-Wise" for the November 15th issue. However I would like your comments which would be appreciated.. Talked to on phone 12/5/73, thinks article is great.

Munson 7/1982 Errorscope publication. A few weeks ago a most pleasant surprise made its way to the Munson PO Box. American Half Cents, 2nd Edition, by Roger S. Cohen, Jr. His 1st edition instantly became the standard reference on the half cent series, and this 2nd edition is greatly improved from there. Orchids to Roger for another excellent contribution to numismatic literature! Improvements noted in the revision include the following: 1) addition of a condition census (indicating condition of the half dozen or more best specimens known to the author for each die variety 2) use of high grade coins for the photos 3) updated information on emission order (the actual order in which dies were used in striking the coins) 4) addition of a "Short History of Half Cent Collecting", which adds flavoring to the "meat" of Half Cent die variety

collecting 5) greatly expanded information of "Other Half Cents" (proof-only issues, restrikes, etc.) Who says that "lightning never strikes twice in the same place?" For a second time Roger has done an outstanding job on this, my favorite of all coin series, the US Half Cent, and in the 2nd edition enough new areas are added to make just those an asset to the literature even without its repeating and refining the information presented in the first edition. Anyone who is at all interested in minting procedures in the early years of the Philadelphia mint, etc., should seriously consider adding this book to his library. It's price is \$35. If I had a complaint, it would only be that I would have liked to see the Gilbert numbers along with Cohen's number at each die variety. . . for the benefit of those few among us who 1) collected half cents by die variety prior to Roger's 1971 book and 2) were too lazy to learn the "new" Cohen numbers. Oh well, there are not that many different die varieties, and I really should learn to speak the language that is now the standard. Perhaps it is inappropriate to review a "non-error" book in this error publication. However, I feel that studies of minting methods by most any yardstick are hand-in-glove with mint error collecting, in that, the more we know of coin manufacture, the better equipped we are to determine the authenticity of any purported error coin! And as had been emphasized in this column, its very reason for existing is that differences in mint methods 160 years ago are responsible for erroneous explanations by error "authorities" when looking at an error coin of that vintage! Of direct interest to error collectors, for every die, obverse or reverse, Roger includes a discussion of the die's life including die cracks, breaks, (cudders, take note!), unusual effects such as the spike chin/tongue/finger-print area on the most interesting half cent die of them all, the 1804 spike chin, etc. A collecting interest of mine was trying to collect every die state of every die variety of 1804 half cent! And I had a good start prior to 1971, when I sold Roger my half cent collection (but I kept my significant errors).

Munson 8/24/82 It's always flattering to read such reviews of my latest efforts. I also believe that you will like the cabal's book when it is finally released, for they promise a section on mint errors. They have photographed one very large collection of half cent "errors" which incidentally is just part of the best Half Cent collection ever put together. Their book should be of considerable interest for a number of reasons too lengthy to go into now. The week of the ANA Convention coincided with part of my two weeks at the beach with my new family. Two girls aged 5 and 3. I may seem somewhat odd after getting one family of three raised I start all over again. It's quite different from before. I now have 97 of 99 varieties and subvarieties listed in the 2nd edition, my Sheldon Large Cents are missing only 12 numbered varieties but many of the NC's. Your article in "Penny-Wise" was of course of interest to me and I'm sure you realize that I am a firm believer in Sheldon's Rarity scale as presented by Sheldon. I have used it in both editions. The numerous efforts to expand the rarity scale are to me just so much intellectual and not too much intellectual writing. Despite what you wrote it was Walter Breen who first expanded on Sheldon's scale in the late 1950's. This was after Sheldon had rejected Breen's proposals for "Penny Whimsy". Breen was the author of Dr. Judd's rarity scale! You might also note it was also used for the "Empire" Half Cent pamphlet which if you will remember we carried on about 10 years ago some correspondence as to its real origin. I noted one comment

you made that seemed to me to be a backward step i.e. "Breen's research on US Copper is legendary." You bet it's legendary somewhat like "Betty Crocker" writes legendary cookbooks for General Mills! What you may or may not know is that "Walter Breen" has become a legend that is used by coin hucksters to promote their merchandise. Breen is used unmercifully. The present cabal, yes cabal, that is producing Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of US Half Cents is using his legendary name and the person to gain their ends which is to supersede my book. I'll have a great deal more to say over this when and if the "other book" is released to the general public. I have learned a great deal about this effort and what makes it tick. I can confidently say that their book will say less than mine and that many errors will be present. The basic thing is that WB himself has done no research for 20 years! In 1962 his work was considerable compared to what had been come before, since a 1962 great deal more research has been done which is in conflict with his prior writings he refuses to recognize. Gives example of poor research. Despite all this data Walter has refused to change his position!! Thus it is with many other hard facts I state that I will agree that "Breen writing on US Copper is legendary" only if it is recognized that the writing for the most part is a legend and not founded on historical fact known at the time. Sounds kind of rough but the sooner that those of us who are interested in accuracy recognize that Breen's writings for the most part are bullshit the more we will advance toward knowing what actually occurred. The article by Ron Guth is the same issue of "Penny-Wise" as yours is like a breath of fresh air. Likewise Bill Weber's article on the 1797 Lettered edge represents another step towards rational thinking which has suffered from Breen type of writing in the past.

Noyes 7/5/78 Coin pressings 1794 C2a and 1794 C4

Packard 10/9/88 I want you to know I reported it to Ed Masuoka for the survey as a VF-35 and not an EF-40. I feel the coin has a few too many circulation marks. I realize that it is things like this that make it so damned difficult for people to keep track of individual pieces. No one ever said life was easy.

Palmer 11/3/81 On the study of planchets I have always believed that they were not struck in the order made, rather they were placed in piles so that the last made were presumably the first used. However depending on the size of the pile etc. making the first ones were struck at once. It's just too bad we don't have a video tape of the Mint in those early years.

Palmer 7/27/82 Coin pressing of 1794 C1b I haven't seen the publicized Breen-Meghrig edition yet but even without seeing it my feelings are that you made the book and kindled the current interest. My seeing your collection in 1972 certainly gave me an insight into half cents which I never before could develop.

Palmer 6/15/83 Coin pressing 1794 S-18b

Patterson 1/29/90 Uncancelled check for 2nd edition

Pfeffer 6/16/73 Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Warren concerning my letter to you. I gather you enjoyed my letter to you. Do you think I was polite enough in dealing with "ANB" (Breen) in my letter. I never thought of him in this light until I went to the Archives myself and compared what he had written. I have gotten to the point where I question everything he has written. Not only on Half Cents but the other denominations as well. There is a very fertile field for Large Cent Collectors in the Archives to do original research. The Gold and Silver Records are extensive and much could be gotten from the archives but the person doing the research should have available specimens and familiarity with them. According to Dr. Hope Holdkamper who is in charge of Record Group 104 at the Archives, the only persons who have done extensive research are Breen, Taxay, and Julian. I've covered what I think of Breen. Taxay did not pick up much if the Scott's Comprehensive Catalogue is any indication of what he found. R. W. Julian is a school teacher who has probably done the most extensive work. However, he does not have an extensive coin collection. He wrote to me that the only pre-1800 Half Cent he had was a poor and battered 1795 lettered edge which could not be identified as to whether it was a CMM#1 or CMM#2. He also wrote that the cost of any trip must be measured by the potential paid articles which would be generated. Thus I do not feel that Julian can really devote a great deal of time to Archives research. In my own case being literally next door to the Archives has been an invaluable asset and likewise that I am an accountant as the Archives records are only Accounting Records. This is where Breen fell down. He doesn't know a debit from a credit and if a Journal or Ledger hit him in the face he wouldn't recognize it. I also noted that he had even made pencil notations on the papers in the Archives! I could even trace many of his wild-assed guesses which appeared in his article in the Coin Collectors Journal (May-June 1954). Well enough of this. All I would write is another two pages of a tirade against "ANB". I don't have the time for such masturbation.

Pfeffer 10/10/73 Frankly I want to see just what Superior is going to do with the Ruby Collection. I don't even know who is going to catalogue it but my guess is that Walter Breen will do it. It should be interesting as Breen now catalogues by Gilbert Number only. He ignores my numbers and can't use his numbers due to John Ford's ownership of his manuscript. Breen will probably write as he did for the recent sale by Superior. The Anderson-Dupont collection was written by Walter, not Dr. Sheldon. This was a time when Walter was young and not so set in his ways. From my viewpoint the cataloguing was excellent. The collection was also exceptional.

Pfeffer 11/18/73 Interestingly enough my original letter to WB was not intended to be published in PW. I originally sent the letter to him in early September, and as with my other letters to him, I received no answer. I was quite surprised when Dr. Lapp called and asked my permission to publish my letter to Breen. It was only then that I even knew Breen had answered a letter of mine. I don't plan to answer Breen's answer to me as it can only lead to petty squabbling and will only be amusing to others and will not further the study of half cents. Walter got into such an embroilment with Al Overton over half dollars on the pages of Coin World a number of years

ago. I don't want to do this. I think EAC has heard the last from Breen for some time unless he leaves the employment of Apfelbaum.

Pfeffer 11/21/73 I think you're right in letting the exchange of letters with Breen rest for the time being. Besides, it's now up to him to refer you to some specific examples of a 1797 G-3 without reverse break.

Pfeffer 12/26/73 What do you plan to do with the data? You have done an enormous amount of data compiling but I am reminded somewhat of the story that John Wright tells of seeing the numbers 362436 as data but when dashes are added it becomes 36-24-36 which was information. To me the most important information to be gathered is provenance i.e. pedigree of the better specimens of Half Cents. The only person I know of who has attempted to set down is Breen, but as usual this has been kept from others who are interested. I have of course worked on this but I am not in what I consider to be a position to publish anything on it. I am in correspondence with another person who unfortunately wants to remain unknown about the pedigrees. The data which you have accumulated traces what specimens can be from the catalogues but I think there is much repetition.

Pfeffer 12/29/73 What I hope to accomplish from all this is to collect additional information from others, to supplement what I was able to find out for myself. I'm pretty sure that there is a lot of repetition in the sales, and also a lot of private sales that never got into catalogues.

Hopefully, we can round up a group of interested half cent buffs (who are not concerned with keeping this sort of thing secret) and by pooling all our information, we can create a "data bank." I say "hopefully" although I am not really very hopeful. A good many persons truly enjoy reading about this sort of thing, but very, very few are willing to go to the trouble of writing down their ideas. I'm sure you must have run up against this attitude yourself. I can't understand why this wasn't done long ago. It seems so natural for a collector to want to know the history of his own coins, and how it compares with what other collectors have. I find it adds a lot of enjoyment to collecting. It is, of course, necessary to preserve a collector's desire for anonymity insofar as his collection is concerned. But that should not prevent us from tracing past history, that is, previous sales of the same coin, to learn its chain-of-title. Nor should it prevent us from describing interesting features of that coin, without disclosing its present ownership.

Pfeffer 1/28/78 I can't believe that it's over but it is. Your series on catalogue data on Half Cents was an item that I looked forward to in each issue of PW. I know I didn't help you with it as I feel that each person's writing should be his own. In your project it was you who wrote your observations and I believe that the body of knowledge of half cents has been greatly enriched by your work. So please accept my thanks for a job well done. P.S. I also apologize for omitting your name on the list of contributors to the article I did for PW in the present issue.

Pfeffer 1/25/81 Your article in the 1/15/81 PW has caused me to pick up my pen. While what I am going to write may be construed as somewhat critical of your efforts I wish to point out that much of my letter will be opinion. In no way do I want to discourage you from your efforts. Your contribution to the lore of Half Cents has been great. I look forward to your articles and

even though I may not always agree I consider them to be a real contribution. I presume the collection which you refer to is the Schonwalter one. I have wanted to see it as a number of specimens are rather key ones. When the ANA had their convention in 1976 in NY I understood Mr. S. wanted to see me at the EAC meeting which I didn't attend. Gene Braig however gave me a second-hand report of what he had seen, thus some of the coins were familiar.

Pfeffer 5/19/82 Bob Schonwalter's coins were eye-popping to me. I wish to thank you for inviting me and Debby to dinner and I must say I enjoyed the coin club meeting so much more than the usual meeting.

8/22/75 Raymond accepts co-chair

Raymond 11/22/72 The Kriesburg-Cohen catalog was written by the collector known as Jack Collins. He's a sharp guy and a good one. He has a top-quality collection of late date Large Cents. I first met him 5 or 6 years ago when he had a small local shop which specialized in quality coins. His grading is 10 points or so high, but that's a lot more accurate than K-C ever was. WB just hated NYC, and with opportunities for employment in coins scarce and astrology non-existent, he grabbed the chance to be closer to friends.

Raymond 11/25/72 I'm going to Baltimore to a gun and coin show, I think I'll take some of my extra muskets along, who knows what might show up.

Raymond 12/22/72 Enclosed is the list I sent out to about 30 known collectors which I selected from known collectors and purchasers of my book. It would seem that by controlling the market for the book I can find out just who is interested in Half Cents. As you can see most every desirable Half Cent is gone. Essentially what has happened is that I have been able to upgrade my collection by putting Munde's collection into mine and then selecting the pure duplicates and disposing of them through the list. I believe I have now the most complete Half Cent collection. I do not have the first condition census coins and after comparing the Showers coins photos I find that the present owner of Showers would beat me in a whist match. Well I'm going to keep trying. I sometimes wonder why I am striving to accumulate such a collection. The only reason is that for 20 years I didn't have the financial means to do it and now I do, yet from a strictly financial viewpoint these items are a doubtful investment since the field is so small. Yet I'm enjoying myself immensely.

Raymond 2/5/73 It's 2am and I just got to the office to start today. The first thing I'm starting on is coin correspondence which has accumulated a small pile since January 15th. Yours is first on the list in that it's the oldest.

Raymond 5/23/73 All of us must limit ourselves to certain objectives. With regard to half cents, mine are: buy every collectible coin I can get my hands on for distribution among my fellow collectors, and eventually end up with a good collection. I don't think that half cents are a very good long-term investment, I just like them. How about you? What are your objectives? I'm guessing that you want to acquire enough die states to get a better handle on certain emission sequences. How do you feel about condition?

Raymond 6/2/73 Since I am not a dealer I sure couldn't make anything on them if I were. Granted I have sold some coins but that was just to raise enough for Munde's collection.

Basically, I don't have the time to be a dealer. My objective in Half Cents is to upgrade and get various die states but since I now have all the varieties (with possibly 1 exception) I do not feel any great need to upgrade 5 points or so. If it were a 20 point upgrade I might do so if the price isn't too steep. As you know I do not have the mania for condition that some collectors have.

Bill Weber of San Jose visited with me a number of times over the last 2 weeks. He is another dedicated collector who is very similar to me in many ways. He too has suffered from a lack of funds for 20 years but now I believe he is going to move forward. His prime interest is the coins and not "How much is it worth". I must say I enjoyed his company greatly.

Raymond 9/21/73 This letter from PW (Silberman) of 9/15/73 may explain why I published "AHC", particularly the underlined paragraph. Working together we (meaning all persons interested in Half Cents) can get the story. P.S. Have you seen the last 2 issues of PW? There is more on Half Cents than in all the issues before. Others are writing, it's not just me.

Raymond 11/5/73 The coin business is rapidly becoming a wasteland of idiots and touts and other assorted screwballs. Us non-crazies gotta stick together and support each other against the crazies. Silberman's letter makes little sense as it stands but in conjunction with your comment at the top means – share your knowledge so that we can gradually merge it all and thereby all will know more. Well, I can agree with all that. My only objection is that you published a permanent document too soon. Why not write AHCTLHS, mimeograph about 20 copies and hand them out one by one as you encounter serious students of the coins. Include with the MS a letter requesting those searchers to share new knowledge. When you learn something new, mimeo a letter to all MS holders. That way you could get something strong going. You might even include a time limit, say 8 years. The book will be published in 8 years, so get in your suggestions and discoveries if you want them included, etc. etc. Anyway, the deed is done, and only 2 years later a huge number of changes need to be made.

Raymond 6/11/74 If I were to appear, like magic, in your town on June 23 would I cause you a lot of problems if I were to park my sleeping bag in your backyard? Got to do some research in the Archives, and spend some time with you. I'll have a report on a nice collection you haven't seen yet, and at the end of the summer I'll have seen two more that nobody has seen.

Raymond 12/14/74 Maxwell misses you and sends his paw print. Roger and Debby

Raymond 8/11/75 About EAC: I'll be very happy to do anything I can to help the club, from co-chairman of the half cent division to clean-up committee member after one of our meetings.

However, I haven't been able to think of a reason for dividing up our club. Certainly there are not enough half cent specialists to have our own meetings or our own publication. So what is there for a half cent chairman to do (or co-chairman)? For one thing, we could help edit any half cent articles which are submitted to PW. I can't think of another function, can you?

Raymond 9/17/75 Is there a chance you and D might trundle your selves out to Calif. for a vacation next summer? We have a spectacularly beautiful place NW of Reno which can appeal to any level of outdoorsyness – from mountain climbers to loungers and lemonade sippers.

Raymond 10/28/76 It must be a lot of fun and a lot of worry to have a new baby around the house! Congratulations on the new addition. If you happen to notice what looks like sibling rivalry coming from me, it's only because I'm worried that she may have taken my room.

Raymond 12/2/83 I have sold out the 3000 printed and my distributorship agreement terminates in 2/1984, so I am free to proceed. I am planning to put out a 2nd printing of 2nd edition in 1984. Do you have any suggestions? You certainly were of great help in the revision. The news from me is that Cate is now 7 years old and enjoying school. Scott is getting married in June. Give my best to Jeannine and Knight and I hope you're enjoying being a father.

Raymond 1/9/1972 Your letter is an amazing document and sheds considerable light on you and your thinking. Perhaps I should not bother to write you, but I feel that since you are a Half Cent collector, you should have some knowledge as to why I wrote my book. I am somewhat hesitant to do this, as I am not sure you will understand this letter, particularly since I have had no response to my letter concerning what I consider to be the over-emphasis on condition when it comes to collecting artifacts. I also noted, in that letter, that you and I seem to be poles apart when it comes to collecting. I have written you of my interest in half cents, and I believe that I have mentioned that I have known WB for many years. I first met him in July 1952 in the coin shop on Ben Douglas here in Washington. He was accompanied by Tom Warfield of Baltimore. Douglas had offered me a 1797 lettered edge in fine condition. The price was \$85.00. I think you can see from this that I was a half cent collector at that time and was collecting by variety. Breen at that time was attending Johns Hopkins University. He told me that the 1787 was a good buy and was genuine. I met him later that month at a meeting of the Maryland Numismatic Society in Baltimore. At the meeting he gave me his list of half cent varieties for me to copy. I still have my copy. It is an interesting item. Walter made quite a few errors, but at the time this was his best effort and it was a commendable one. About three months later, I found the 1808/7 new reverse. At the next meeting of the Maryland Numismatic Society I asked him how many reverses were known of the 1808/7. He stated that there was only one. I told him that I had two. He refused to believe me, as he had to see the coin. I didn't have it with me, so he said he would call me when he got to Washington again. In January of 1953 he called me, and I met him at Andrews Field, Maryland where he was spending the weekend with Dick (D. Wayne) Johnson. Johnson was in the Air Force at the time. We went over my entire half cent collection of approximately 50 varieties. He was very disdainful of my collection, mainly due to its condition, until he picked up the 1808/7. There was an abrupt shout and the statement "What have you got here?" I don't think I have ever seen anyone so excited as he over that coin. He suggested that I write an article about it. I declined, as I felt that Walter Breen was "Mr. Half Cent" and he should do the honors. I left the coin with him so he could get it photographed and write it up. This was done in the December 1953 Numismatic Scrapbook. I have previously sent you a copy of this. Shortly after this I decided to buy a house, so my coin collection had to go. I consigned it to New Netherlands, and it appeared in their forty-second sale in October 1953. Without going into detail, I will never again consign any coins to them for auction. The attitude of John Ford and Walter was overbearing and belittling. In addition, all of my coins except one were

downgraded one full grade. While this was great for the buyer, I as seller did not realize anywhere what I should have. The only coin not downgraded was my S-15 large cent. This was bought for Dorothy Paschal by Walter. It was only the sixth known specimen at that time, “An aristocrat of aristocrats to quote Dr. Sheldon, but Walter Breen and John Ford seemed to regard the consigner as sort of a country bumpkin. After selling my collection, my activity in coin collecting diminished, but I did had not sold the 1808/7 new reverse. My reasoning was simply that someday I would collect half cents by variety again, and my chances of acquiring another would be very slim, particularly since the coin was unique at the time. I did however acquire a few half cents. One was a 1795 G-5 on a thick planchet such as sometimes seen on the G-6. I wrote Walter who replied that he didn’t believe me. I showed it to him. He was, at that time, living in Washington in a rooming house on 16th Street, NW, between O and P Streets. I believe Wayte Raymond was paying his expenses so that Walter could research the Archives records. He had some doubts as to my coin, but he didn’t commit himself. Interestingly enough, when Bowers and Ruddy put out Walter’s booklet, the coin was mentioned as a single known specimen. I have taken the trouble to set out this ancient history for you so that you will realize that I too have a very good recall, which as you know, is one of Walter’s strong points. You might even check out what I have written. I would also like to point out that Walter knew of me. The fact that you were not privy to knowledge of me is certainly not my fault. I think you will also now recognize that my experience in half cents is long-standing. In the next few years I went on to collect other artifacts and left half cents to Walter, but kept an eye on what was going on as I was awaiting his book. The Hillyer-Ryder Sale in 1955 was interesting. Walter mentioned the new reverse of the 1808/7 but of course did not identify the discoverer or owner. He also started to use “Breen Numbers” for the half cents. He additionally did this for a large sale that Stacks had about this time (Anderson-Dupont). I felt then and feel now that he was being very presumptuous in using numbers from a book that wasn’t even published. In 1963 I picked up a copy of the Bowers and Ruddy guide. I recognized Walter’s style of writing at once. As I have mentioned before, I feel Walter’s writing style has a great deal to be desired. I consider it to be cryptic and extremely opinionated. My writing, as you will see, is full of opinions but is not opinionated. In addition to this, I have noticed that Walter’s writing style has become ex-cathedra in nature. By 1966 my interests changed back to half cents. The field of course had changed somewhat but Walter Breen was still “Mr. Half Cent”. I also noted that after fourteen years the book still wasn’t published. This puzzled me as I had always looked to him to turn it out. I now know what happened to a limited degree. Only Walter knows the full story and I don’t think any other person knows exactly why the book was never published. I think basically it amounts to poor business judgment on Walter’s part and the fact that he reaps considerable financial benefit from his knowledge. My position on this matter was basically that I wanted a good book on half cents and as late as 1968 I felt strongly that only Walter could turn one out despite his writing style. During the period of 1966-1969 I noted however that when I talked to persons who were interested in half cents, they were confused, and when I started to explain things, they listened. These persons suggested to me that I write the book. I felt

reluctant to undertake this at first. After thinking about this for some time I began to realize that if someone didn't do something, nothing would ever be done. In a previous letter to you I outlined the steps that I took, including attempts to establish a working relationship with Walter. In your letter you state: "You must have received a lot of help from Munde and Munson to have called your numbering system CMM. But where did they learn? Munson got his knowledge from Breen directly, or from New Netherlands auction catalogs written by Breen; Munde got most of his coins and knowledge from Hanson who learned from Breen's manuscript. Even the article on 1804 half cents which appeared in PW a couple of years ago was plagiarized by H. Hazelcorn from Breen's notes. You can see that all of this springs from the same source." I would like to inform you of the facts and correct what appears to me to be glaring errors in your thinking. Ray Munde is an extremely perceptive person. He obviously must be to be the competent attorney that he is. In numismatics he applies the same professional standards. He has a very extensive library which he reads and absorbs. He is an extremely condition-conscious collector without being a snob. His "feel" for half cents far exceeds anything I have seen in various articles and auction catalogues by Walter. Paul Munson is an extremely well-known numismatist, not only for half cents but for just about any US series from 1793 to 1857. His knowledge is far greater than that of a person who will just paraphrase what he has heard. He is a person who thinks for himself and does not blindly follow the great leader. The statements which you have made in your letter to me indicate an abysmal ignorance of these persons or an unwillingness on your part to admit that any person could equal or exceed your mentor. The authorship of the book is completely mine. Munde and Munson served as my critics and they gave generously of their time to answer questions and discuss any hypothesis that I might advance. Both of them willingly supplied coins for photography. Other collectors also supplied assistance and/or offered support and I have mentioned them on the last page of the book. You and Walter were the only persons who exhibited a completely negative attitude toward my book. The use of CMM as the designation of my numbers was done for two reasons: 1) The capital letters C and G are often mistaken in handwriting 2) Since both Munde and Munson had been so helpful I felt that further recognition of their efforts was a proper thing to do. It also clearly sets forth my numbering system. Now the book is done and released and it's all over except for possible revisions which will probably be slight. Walter has now seen the book and I think he was amazed. I enjoyed the Early American Coppers meeting on December 30th. I particularly enjoyed one point when Walter said "I have this information. Why didn't you ask me?" I replied, "If you will remember I tried to." He made no reply to this but three other EAC members who were gathered around got the point as all of them were aware of my efforts to establish a working relationship with Walter. Now you have the book so read it carefully. Do you think it's a worthless piece of trash as you described Overton's first book? I can only let the book speak for itself. I am enclosing a review of the book. William R. T. Smith of Chicago is another half cent collector. You've probably never heard of him. I think you will find that there are many more half cent collectors than you ever imagined. I know I have arrived at this conclusion. At the present moment I am mailing out my orders. With the limited amount of

publicity I have had, the mailing list is over 125 copies and none are to libraries and damn few to dealers. I close this long letter now and I hope that in the future you will speak of me as the “Moses of Half Cents” rather than the “Usurper.”

Reinhardt 7/13/87 I write at the encouragement of others who claim some personal contact with you, all of whom inform you are amiable and responsive to inquiries and pleased with opportunities to examine scarce and/or beautiful pieces. I start with this because I feel like I am intruding on someone I do not know and who is obviously quite busy. I know the preface of “Little Half Sisters” encourages writing but I’m not offering anything new. Coin pressings 1809C3 (3), 1804C8 (2), 1804C6 (2), 1805C3 (2)

Reinhardt 10/17/87 pictures of his half cents

Reinhardt 11/13/87 Since you’ve spent a lot of time and money with me on the phone, I’m assuming you’re just one of those people who try to be helpful. I apologize for taking advantage but really appreciate your help. You’ve been really helpful and charming about it. I thank you very much. Coin pressings 1800C1 (2), 1809C3

Reinhardt 6/20/88 Bad news from the grapevine says you are recovering from a heart attack. Do get well and strong and I am real sorry about your bad fortune. Coin pressings 1795C5b, 1795C6a, 1794C6a, 1804C11

Reinhardt 9/21/88 coin pressing 1794C4

Reinhardt 10/27/88 What has happened is that since the publication of my first Edition in 1971 people have had an easy method of identifying. As has been noted many times, rarity can only go down! There is an exception to this however. If you will note Mr. Breen very often notes that a variety is R4 (nearly R5). Who ever said that water can’t flow uphill!! Coin pressings 1805C3 (2)

Reinhardt 6/4/89 I suspect the heat is no bargain given your heart problem only a year or so back. Hope this note arrives to find you in excellent health and spirits. Lastly, I would like to join the group that is encouraging you to write another half cent book. I will offer any assistance I can; my coins, photos, pressings, even my time – I can read and write well and would be glad to proofread or whatever would help.

Reinhardt 8/20/89 I was thrilled to see you in good health and excellent, sassy spirits. I do hope your recovery is complete and you’ve learned how to reduce the anxieties and pressures in your life that create stress on neuro-system. Do create an advanced text if you have your Dr.’s blessings; if no Dr. approval forget it and let someone else do it. The need exists but not at your expense, your family needs and loves you and so does the Half Cent community. Coin pressings 1795C4 (3)

Reinhardt 9/21/89 I do hope this arrives at a time that you are now totally well and religiously following your Dr.’s council. Coin pressing 1794C4 (3)

Reinhardt 3/14/90 I hope this note gets to you at a time that finds you greatly improved. I am very saddened to hear from Debbie you are ill again. Find a witch doctor perhaps from Jamaica, I’m sure he’ll do better for you than the “AMA” guys. Coin pressings 1804C7, 1837 token

Rock 9/19/85 I write you in my continuing search to locate condition census Half Cents. Your name has also popped up in the current and last issue of "Penny-wise" in regard to your series Books on Copper Worth Their Weight in Gold on which I have a few comments. The first serial comments in regard to the Durst (1884) reprint of Bowers 1962 work were in my opinion "right on" to put it in the current vernacular. I have tried to figure why that disgrace ever made it to the printing press! The most plausible answer I can come up with is that Durst wanted something to sell cheaply on Half Cents. Particularly since I have refused to sell him copies of my book as a result of a rather disagreeable experience with him. Your second serial which arrived yesterday has caused me to "take pen in hand." Thank you for your complimentary review or synopsis. Turning out a book as a labor of love is no easy job. Particularly when you are new at the publishing game. If we ever meet and have time to discuss and you're interested, I'll go over with you some of the unsaid and generally unknown items behind both my first and second editions. In case you're interested there were 1993 copies of my first edition printed of which I have about 10 remainders left. There were no presentation copies. I also acted as distributor and it took 10 years to sell out. Some collectors have referred to the book as being "addictive" and I definitely agree with you that it had an "affect" on the numismatic fraternity. The second edition had 3000 copies printed of which I sold 2700 copies to one distributor before the printing and binding were completed. 250 were preordered. There are also 2 styles of Presentation copies. 20 copies bound in brown leather and given to persons who helped. Their names are also embossed. Another 8 copies are green bound and given to others as presentations. I have the plates and photos if there is ever a 2nd printing which I doubt there will be as I will probably issue a 3rd edition. Just when depends on a number of factors entirely too lengthy to set forth now. I hope I'm not boring you with all this and I realize this letter is much longer than I had anticipated. I find your comments about Breen's Half Cent book quite interesting. I waited for 32 years for Walter to publish and I cannot convey my dismay at what was produced. I consider the "Big Red Book" to be a shame. There is so much correct information available that could be in it. Your comment that if used in a symbiotic relationship with my book is very true!! The dissimilar styles of writing are unfortunate for Half Cent buffs. Perhaps my projected 3rd edition will cure the problem.

Rock 1/21/86 For some reason you have not replied to my letter to you of 9/19/85. This is OK with me. However under these circumstances I will be forced to list any of your former collection coins as "rumored" in any CC work which is published. Also as these coins make the rounds of various collectors your name will be omitted from the chain of ownership (pedigree) unless someone else has it recorded. Only the Half Cent fraternity will suffer from your choice not to reply to me. In regard to your series in Penny-Wise when you reviewed Walter's Half Cent "Encyclopedia" (The Big Red Book) you stated that the book was never promised to be the final word on Half Cents. Now that the limitations of this incredible accumulation of logorrhea are known, I believe it's time for you to see some of the promotional material.

Rock 2/17/86 I am in receipt of your letter and enclosures of January 21. Ever since your letter of September 19, I have been in a quandary as to how to answer. First of all, I must thank you for the information that you furnished on the deluxe editions of your book, as well as for catching my slip-up on the Quarterman reprint of Stewart's work (which was in my notes, but somehow never made it to the final article). Second, and most important, I consider myself to be a close friend to both Jack Collins and Walter Breen, the two people that I feel you have done the most to hurt in the hobby. It is entirely for this last reason that I am unable to furnish you with the information you requested. I have seen the letters that you wrote to Jack, dripping with hate and jealousy. There is no room in the numismatic fraternity for such childish antics. You are obviously upset that a better work than your own has been published, and, instead of being glad that such an in-depth piece of research has been published, you have done your best to pooh-pooh the work, and then have picked out the little faults and magnified them so much that you are no longer able to see the good points. If you are unhappy with "The Big Red Book", publish something better. If you can. This is how true numismatic scholars have worked over the years—not by taking their marbles and going home. Does it bother you that when all is said and done the contributions that Walter and Jack have made will tower over your own such efforts? Is that why you vainly, desperately try to tear down the best thing yet written on the series? As you have already guessed, my lot has already been cast with Walter and Jack. It's a shame that such petty politics must exist in numismatics, but, when the "battle" is between a hateful, spiteful man and two people who I consider to be among the most honest and fair in the hobby, it is not too difficult to pick the side of the angels.

Rock 3/18/86 It is indeed a shame that you have allowed your personal prejudice to overcome your common sense in sending me the letter that you did. In addition you have allowed yourself to be used in creating more of a sides issue in the field of numismatic research. Your conclusions as to my thinking are quite erroneous. I am not upset at the publication of the "Big Red Book". Rather for 14 years I needed an egomaniac to put up or shut up. He chose the former. We can each now express our own opinion on the product. The errors in my opinion far offset any good points. As I stated to you previously I consider the book to be a shame. More than one collector has stated "it's hard to separate the buckwheat from the bullshit." I do not plan to "pick up my marbles and go home" rather I plan to work for Half Cent knowledge devoid of pompous, arrogant writing. I am also very much in favor of letting people know what I have knowledge of. I do not plan to keep it all to myself as someone did for 20 years. I must close now and hope that you do not consider this letter to be arrogant, illiterate and tacky. I do hope you enjoy the Fairy land you have chosen to enter.

Rock 3/22/86 I've received your letter of 3/18. Circumstances permit a much quicker reply than my last. I do not want to be placed in the middle of a controversy. But, the plain truth is that one already exists, and, as I've already stated, I have chosen sides. Personal prejudice played only a minor role in the letter I sent. I have nothing against you or your work. I just have a problem in dealing with your prejudices. Your last line completely ruined the rest of your letter. Do you remember it? "I do hope you enjoy the Fairy land you have chosen to enter." Yes, I know that

both Jack and Walter come under your heading of “Fairy land.” Big deal. What a person does in the privacy of their home is none of my business. Good grief, there are drug dealers, major drug users, ex-convicts, people who should be serving time, thieves, rapists, at least two people who have killed and God only knows what else involved in numismatics! Why do you have to pick out a point that is completely meaningless to pick on? Since you are a researcher, you know how important it is to know about what you’re writing or speaking about. If you have a problem with accepting Jack, Walter, (and, I can guarantee you, thousands of others. I personally know around 25-30 men and women involved on both sides of the numismatic table, who are homosexual. Included are some of the largest dealers and collectors) why don’t you research the subject. I’m not here to preach, but, you might learn something. My last word on the subject—I feel that you’ve allowed your personal prejudice get the best of you, and unfortunately, it has hurt the numismatic community. You were a bit unfair in your treatment of Walter. First, I do not consider him to be an “egomaniac.” The man enjoys attention, but I dare you to find a human being who doesn’t. Nor did he keep his knowledge to himself for twenty years. He had no resources that were denied to anyone else—the knowledge was there, waiting to be found. You’ve also got to remember that in the twenty years after he completed his first monograph on half cents, there were a lot of different things happening. After leaving Harmer Rooke, most of his manuscripts were kept by Don Taxay (later sold to a noted bibliophile). I believe the Half Cent work was among those lost. There were also many other things to be done—ranging from raising his two children to researching and writing about other topics. I do not think that the publication of the half cent encyclopedia was brought about because of your incessant needling to “Put up or shut up.” Rather, it was thought that a comprehensive work in the series was sorely missing and that it would fill an existing gap in numismatic knowledge. As I said before, if you don’t like the book, write a better one. That’s how it’s done. If the book is as bad as you say it is, you don’t have to waste valuable energy trying to tear it down and ripping it to shreds. Use that energy to write something better. A useless book can only be the standard reference as long as it is the only book written. Your book replaced Gilbert. Walter’s book has started to replace yours. The collecting public is not easily fooled—it knows what it wants, and, if it doesn’t get it, it makes that fact known. If the collector isn’t happy with WB’s book, we’ll all hear about it. I have never allowed my personal feelings to interfere with numismatics. If you need any information, I’d be glad to furnish it. I am unable to provide you with any additional data on the half cents, for reasons that have absolutely nothing to do with the feud. In closing, “I do hope YOU enjoy the Unfair land you have chosen to enter.” RSC adds “another cocksucker”

Rubin 11/8/83 Since you do research for Breen perhaps you will enjoy the latest joke. It seems as though Jack Collins sent the half cent book to be printed and bound in Japan as price was 40% less. The joke is book is printed in Japanese, thus another 2 year delay can be expected. I am planning a 2nd printing of my 2nd edition. The present distributor is almost out of the 2700 copies he purchased. A year from now I guess I’ll know the answer as to whether I reprint or not.

Schonwalter 5/19/82 It was a real pleasure to meet you last Friday. Many thanks for the effort to bring out your coins. I really enjoyed seeing those that I was able to look at. I am talking at Cherry Hills on June 26th and you mentioned that you planned to be there. Would it be possible to have you bring some of my old friends from the 1953 sale? I too am bringing some Half Cents and observing your rule of not more than I can carry on my person. I'm sure us old-timers can get together without a crowd for a leisurely talk on our coppers.

Sheldon 1/9/72 Dear Dr. Sheldon, By separate cover I am sending you a copy of my book, "AHC-LHS". I am doing this for a number of reasons. First is that I consider you to be my mentor when it comes to coin collecting. I acquired a copy of Early American Cents in October 1949 and I have yet to see its equal. Secondly, I would appreciate your comments on the book. You as a collector of U. S. Copper are well aware of the relationship between the Cent and Half Cent. Your comments would not be published or circulated without your express consent. Thirdly, I would like you to study my format, printing, and enlarged photography, and suggest you consider it for "More Cent Nonsense" or whatever you title your third revision. In regard to my last reason, I am sure that you have had many ideas suggested to you. I would be most willing to supply you with any information that you may desire as to what steps I went through to publish my book. As you may realize, I have carried my book from idea, through research, writing, editing, proofreading, pasteups, publishing, and distribution. It was a real pleasure to meet you and Mrs. Paschal at the EAC meeting on December 30 and I look forward to seeing you again.

Sheldon 4/22/72 Dr. Sheldon asked me to write you a letter- and I am going to do so Monday or just as soon as I get through with this chore.

Sheldon 4/23/72 It may be hard for you to understand the following acknowledgement; so first I want to tell you that I wrote my first letter to Dr. Sheldon over 20 years ago and have never received in all these years a letter from him. Dorothy Paschal answered that first one and I have been corresponding with her ever since. Last Friday I flew to NY and spent all day Saturday with Dr. Sheldon. He must have seen your book in my brief case, as he went back in his office, brought your letter out and asked me if I would mind thanking you for sending him the American Half Cents. He knew I was going to write you anyway (see below). It was a most delightful event for me and I learned more about grading Large Cents that day than I have accumulated in knowledge in the last 25 years. When one has never seen the hair details on an Unc. 1793 cent, he cannot be expected to grade an EF or AU 1793 until he does see the UNC. I looked at cents that made my eyes pop out and for the first time realized what the phrase meant. Dr. Sheldon works all the time and uses what little leisure he has to fool with the LCs. He is leaving for the State of Oregon shortly and without the finishing of the long-awaited approval for publication of the new issue of Penny-Whimsey. It will not go to press before Fall (if then), and this proves how busy he really is. Mrs. Paschal has been to Boston three times trying to locate a place to

live there, if she can ever get him to move, or rather to take time off to pack to move. In our discussions your name came up in regard to publication. I wonder if you will help me with information since you have just had the experience. I flew down on to Cape Cod to talk with Eugene Exman who was in charge of publication of Penny-Whimsey in 1958. The whole trouble is that Dr. Sheldon wants the new edition sold at an impossible retail. He abhors inflation and says it is going to ruin the whole country. He has an estimate of 4000 copies @ \$5.40 each from Whitman (I think) and a recommended retail of a very minimum of \$18.50, while he had in mind something like \$12.00. I want to see the new issue published enough to try to do something about it, even if I have to agree to distribute it for nothing but expenses, but I would like to make something like 50 cents an hour for the effort. He is not going to take a dime for all his work. Wright and Loring have turned up such a flurry of new information that the basal values as well as the Condition Census is still up in the air. It is my understanding you did all the work yourself on your book. Did you actually do the printing? Maybe you could tell me where to look to find out if it will be possible to have Penny-Whimsey printed and distributed for a price of no more than \$15. One thing which is expensive and which are available, the plates from Penny-Whimsey, but about 6 or 8 new photos have to be inserted somewhere, preferably on the pages where the varieties fit in, which of course could change that many pages of plates. As you so told me I know this is your busiest time, but Dr. Sheldon thanks you and appreciates your sending the book, and I would surely appreciate any information you can give me, as soon as your rush business is over. Raymond Chatham, partially for Dr. W. H. Sheldon

Silberman 9/21/73 Silberman puts down Breen for not cooperating with Large Cent project I thought I was being a little blunt in the preface to my Half Cent book when I stated that I had waited 20 years for someone to produce a book on Half Cents but your letter in the 9/15/73 "Penny-Wise" makes my veiled reference to Walter Breen look like child's play. Congratulations! Breen deserves every bit of it. I could write 20 pages of self-serving events which have vexed me over the years. If you think you have problems with him just consider Half Cents. When I told him that I was working on a Half Cent book, he said "I don't give a continental damn what you do." I then asked specifically for assistance on the cc and I was treated to an icy stare. Essentially what is going to have to happen on the Newcomb Revision is what I did on Half Cents. Get the book out and to hell with Walter Breen. It is unfortunate that so many persons consider him to be a sage. Since publishing my book I have found that many others will pitch in and help and as to Walter he is NOT the sage he presents himself to be. I first came to this conclusion when I went through the records in the National Archives. I found that I could trace many of Walter's gems of wisdom to certain records but the gems of wisdom were a combination of facts, surmises, and another ingredient I could only guess as being astrology. When I confronted Walter with this I was told "you can go to hell". He won't even engage in the friendly exchange of ideas with me if they differ from his. If you will note PW had only one article on Half Cents (Howard Hazelcorn's 1804 article Sept. 1968) prior to my membership in November 1968 and for the next two years nothing. In 1971 I started with the

Half Cent whist match and for the next year the only thing on Half Cents was what I wrote. This year has seen so much more I can hardly believe it. When it comes to Half Cents, all of the Half Cent collectors are working towards getting the facts. There is a renaissance occurring in half cents without Walter Breen and what is occurring is that Walter is sitting on a "melting iceberg" of Half Cent knowledge that he has built up which when examined closely becomes an "iceberg" of Bullshit. So I close this. The Newcomb revision should go on and if Walter wants to act as he has on Half Cents he will find himself in the same position.

Silberman 7/22/75 EAC has elected to branch-out and include in its work a committee on half cents. We intend to reserve a section of each issue of our publication for this important phase of numismatics, and would be honored if you would chair this committee. A great many have spoken enthusiastically about this addition to our club and I'm sure you will have no trouble in collecting or writing for our publication, and this should give your specialty a good public forum. All costs will be covered by EAC.

Silberman 7/25/75 I have been reading my copies of PW and have wondered what course of action would be taken by EAC. I have not previously written my thoughts on the idea of a "Half Cent Division" or whatever it may be called as I feel that the EAC has done an excellent job to date in publishing and encouraging writing on the series. Now that the EAC is taking another step in its growth as an organization I feel quite honored in being asked to be the chairman. However, I feel that in my case it is necessary for the Half Cent committee to be headed by two persons as equal co-chairmen. I recommend to you Bill Raymond as the co-chairman and I will accept if he is co-chairman. Roger, talk to Bill Raymond and if he accepts tell him to drop me a line for the record and we'll make the announcement in PW.

Silberman 8/22/75 Talked to Bill Raymond on the phone, says he hasn't got time to write you this week but he is quite willing to serve. I'm enclosing a copy of a letter I got from him so you can announce the Half Cent Committee has Co-Chairman.

Silberman 11/29/77 A funny thing happened on my way to the Half Cent Meeting in Ann Arbor, MI last weekend. I ran into a young man with some large double size examples of my beloved Half Cents. They are also known as large cents! The young man comes on as a super salesman of the type that turns me off. However I waited till the bullshit subsided and we got down to business. It seems as though he had 3 large red boxes that had formerly belonged to you. I left the table with 11 examples to bring my accumulation up to 276 examples for the period 1793-1814. However I left my right arm, leg, and testicle with him together with some more modern coin of the realm.

Silberman 12/22/84 It was good to see you again at ANS and I wish we had more time to discuss the what I refer to as the "sides" issue that is being used by Walter to try to stifle criticism of the "Big Red Book". His book is far from what he considers it to be. There are incredible errors in it! I have found so many contradictory statements that I have lost count. The most important thing however is the style of writing. We "peons" are being lectured from Mt. Olympus. Zeus (WB) has spoken and how dare the peons take issue with him. The last issue of PW p. 369 had a minor correction by someone I've never heard of. Walter's response was the

usual barrage of balderdash that says nothing. The point raised by Mr. Hanssens was well thought out and intended to be constructive. Walter's response shows his paranoia about any criticism constructive or otherwise. Walter's current campaign against Dr. Sheldon is of great interest to me and reinforces my own thoughts on what is to be expected in the future. The current project of Large Cents 1793-1814 is for him a major step to establish himself as the messiah of American numismatics. Therefore he must destroy Dr. Sheldon. Dr. Sheldon's approach to the Large Cents was one of scholarship and democracy. Dr. Sheldon's personal life was not an issue but Walter raises the issue in his attack i.e. anti-Semitism and sexual preference. Walter's style of writing as evidenced in the "Big Red Book" is one of poor scholarship and despotism. The mixture of colloquialism and erudition is painfully evident in the excessive verbosity. It is indicative of a person who is incapable of original or constructive thought. Walter is a mimic. For the Large Cent book he will pick the brains of whoever wants his brain picked and claim any original thought as his own. He will scoff and sneer at some of his contributors and they will wonder what happened on the way to the printing press. This is what has happened in the Half Cent field. You might even put this letter aside and bring it out if and when the Large Cent book appears. Large Cent Collectors are in for a rude shock!!

Smith, William 2/5/73 I have heard of Weber from Jon Hanson but I had no idea he was as extensive a collector that the articles seem to indicate. I had also heard from Del Bland that his collection was rather restricted due to cheapskate attributes but on the other hand maybe both of them are playing him down so that I wouldn't be in contact with him, particularly if he might be selling his collection.

Smith, William 5/8/73 Do you have the address of William Weber? Is he alive?? Jerry Bobbe went to CSNS to exhibit his large cents 75 UNC's (1 borrowed from me), 3 proofs. He finished fourth in the judging. Third place was awarded to a complete, uncirculated set of Roosevelt dimes! 2nd place went to a complete set of LW half dollars. Half were UNC, half were AU but were a beautifully matched (polished) set. He told Del Bland that I was selling Ray's half cents-no response. Bill Raymond drove out with Del. I'm convinced he must be a nut- who would drive from California to Peoria, Illinois to look for half cents? Darwin Palmer said you had the name of a young half cent collector near you.

Smith 5/14/73 William Weber is making a trip east in less than a week. He plans to be in Annapolis, MD for about 10 days and we have set up a time to go over Half Cents. He's not only bringing his but Hugh Campbell's as well. Should be an interesting time. The fact that an UNC set of Roosevelt dimes won a prize over 75 UNC large cents is not surprising. Most judges have collected Roosevelt Dimes but probably hadn't seen an UNC large cent before, let alone 75 of them. After all they're priced in the Redbook. A collector who wants to can just go to any dealer and order any of them. That last statement sure is a lot of BS. My son won a 4th prize at a local coin club with his complete (except for 1894-S) set of Barber Dimes. As far as condition goes what can you expect of a boy on a limited budget. The only one I bought for him was the 1895-O and only after he had purchased all the others. Needless to say all the senior club

members who were judges said they had never seen a complete set but that since some of the coins were in such low condition they just could not give him first prize. The young collector is Richard Gross. He has about 76 of the 96 varieties but is always trading and upgrading.

Smith, William 5/24/73 Milt Pfeffer's articles come first. He sent me them on March 29th. All I could do was to acknowledge I had gotten them. About 2 weeks ago I got around to writing to Milt. I'm afraid the letter could have been considered slanderous when it comes to Breen so I didn't send it. Then I got my copy of PW and a copy of Breen's reply for 1794, 1795, and 1797. The next issue of PW should have some interesting items for Half Cent collectors. What is working up is a possible confrontation between Breen and myself. I am very pleased that Pfeffer got something out of Breen. He has succeeded where others have failed for years, including myself. My book had put Walter in the position where he must open up or shut up.

I do not plan to be vengeful to him for his refusal to help me but I plan to let people know where Breen's data is wrong, or unsupported by facts, and/or based on what I consider to be a SWAG (Some Wild-Assed Guess). Breen has not let people know how he arrived at his conclusions in the past. I plan to let people know how conclusions are arrived at. I think that you may note that I've done this in my book in a number of instances. There is more to come. Well I've got to sign off now and get to work. I'm still way overloaded with clients problems and need employees which I don't seem to be able to get in the quality that I want.

Smith, William 6/13/73 I am enclosing Pfeffer's 1795 article to be put in PW July 15, Pfeffer's 1797 article to be put in PW Sept 15, a copy of Breen's letter to Pfeffer with my notations including the use of my rubber stamp which says Bullshit. However don't let this sway your opinion. It's only my thoughts. The most important thing is that Pfeffer was able to get Breen to write something. Breen has kept this information from everyone except a very few persons such as Jon Hanson and WK Raymond. I also believe my book has forced Walter's hand. He must now put up or shut up! It is my opinion that most of what Walter has is more Bullshit which leads up to my letter to Pfeffer. You will note that I don't directly say that Walter is full of shit but if you read it carefully you will see that I am saying that.

Smith, William 10/3/73 I will probably indicate + or - on the rarity. The only thing that is confusing to me is whether the + indicates more or less specimens. I assume that since the rarity number rises as the number of specimens decreases that a plus would indicate a lower number. I do find this confusing but will probably change the article. You know what I think of Breen and rarity is one area where he is way off. What it is, in my opinion, is that WB likes to endear himself to the dealers and auctioneers by overstating rarity. I am basing rarity on what I see and buy. The highest number of specimens for R-4 is 200. Based on the unrealistic rarity figures in Empire I have acquired many of these at the present time. I have 21 examples of 1803 CMM#4, 26 examples of 1804 CMM#1, and 26 examples of 1809 CMM#2. Except for very high condition coins I have purchased all of these unattributed. What I am setting forth in the rarity revision is that I estimate there are more than 200 specimens available for collectors. It would appear that I have in my collection 10% of the known specimens if I listed them as R-4's. This I don't believe. Your ultimate goal on condition and rarity is excellent but I really think it should

be done by the “committee” which could also rate condition by the Sheldon scale. I would like to leave this an open matter. Like I wrote in the article what I’ve done is a beginning and let’s go forward. Don Frederick is a Half Dollar collector now. For many years he was a Half Cent collector. He was the person who was responsible for Sam Ungar’s interest in Half Cents. Anyway about 18 months ago he retired from the Navy and moved to the area. Due to his half dollar interest he wanted to sell his Half Cents which he had been collecting for 10 years. Between myself, Sam Ungar, Rickie Gross, and Bill Raymond we cleaned him out of virtually everything worth having. Lists the Mickley Restrike data.

Smith, William 1/14/74 Your article on the EAC Collusion was of interest and I can see why they didn’t publish it in its present form. Just as an aside Half Cents don’t seem to have the situation although I have contacted some bidders in advance of the sale. Generally we have reached an agreement on certain coins only to have that lot go for more than we discussed. I can see how these things get started. Going over your points in the 2nd paragraph I agree that point 1 on the face of it is illegal but I doubt that there would ever be any prosecution much less conviction. When you have 10 persons conspiring when there are over 200 potential bidders its pretty far-fetched to say restraint of trade. Point 2 is the most important as it damages the EAC image. However it seems that our society puts money over ethics in many cases. The most important thing is for the EAC to be a professional type organization where ethics are more important than \$ or are we to surrender to the almighty buck. I think it’s obvious how I feel. The EAC according to Silberman is in favor of “truth in advertising” when it comes to coppers. Articles on overgrading have even been republished in the Numismatic Scrapbook. When it comes to the Half Cents in the Ruby Sale I made ample use of my BS stamp in my copy of the catalogue. Breen seems to have written this section despite the 3rd person references to himself. His ignoring of my book is apparently going to reduce the sales prices of the lots.

Smith, William 1/15/74 I spent yesterday afternoon at RARCOA checking attributions of material to be in the Central States Auction in Detroit (May 1974). Denis’ cataloguing soured them to the point they begged Apbelbaum to send Breen out to make the coins sound better. Walter supplied his “notes” in his usual note form. When Goldberg’s started criticizing grades he left his notes with them, called a cab, and headed for the airport. Both DWL and WB refused to price the coins, this was done by the Goldberg’s. John Wright had many humorous comments about the whole deal.

Smith, William 5/31/74 I’m very sorry for delaying so long in returning your coins but my life is in such a turmoil right now I had even forgotten I had received the coins. When things get straightened out I’ll let you know.

Smith, Pete 2/21/87 I could not help but note your rebuttal to ANLB. This is the kind of thing I have to put up with since the “Big Red Book” was published.

Smith, Pete 2/24/87 I respect your opinion. I hope you won’t mind if I use a quote from your letter in a future ad for the book. I am very much aware of the way that half cent collectors have become polarized over the two different books. In California I talked to Bill Weber. He was

also amused by my written rebuttal to Breen. I chose my words very carefully. I wanted to disagree with the Breen theory but not attack Breen as a person. I can learn from him. I have written three letters to Breen about the turban series. I haven't even gotten a note of thanks. However, in our personal discussions he has let me know that he is using some of my material. Again, I feel that I can add more to the knowledge of the series by working with him rather than working against him.

Smith, Pete 3/28/87 You of course have my permission to quote what I had to say about "The Starred Reverse". I wouldn't have written it otherwise. I could not help but note that you are getting the usual treatment from ALNB. I went through that many years ago. What he does is to absorb what you have to offer but there is little or no reciprocity! Then it is grudgingly given. You are also laboring under the delusion that he has much data and information and that you can learn a lot from him. Speaking from experience I must inform you that he is not original!! He is an apert, he paraphrases. When he does have an original thought it's the S-48 type. Persons who take issue with him end up being belittled and ignored. I for many years awaited his book on Half Cents. I attempted for many years to enlist his cooperation, even to the point that I offered the completed manuscript of my first edition to him in August 1971. His reply and I quote, "I don't give a continental damn what you do." His reaction to my book was to ignore it, not to work with it. The book he has put out on half cents is a disgrace and an insult to the intelligence of any advanced half cent collector. Bill Weber worked with him. Many of Bill's coins are photographed in the "Big Red Book." While Bill worked with him he was referred to "Ambassador Bill". He worked very hard at attempting to reconcile the animus which I had created by having the audacity to publish a book on half cents! In the end Bill came to realize that he had received the usual treatment. He had been used! And been kicked in the ass as well! Now perhaps you may understand Bill a little better. The polarization of half cent collectors which you refer to is the handiwork of ALNB, not me. I have always worked toward enlightenment in a democratic setting. ALNB wants it in a royalistic setting and he is doing it in big pennies with persons such as yourself, particularly if they have your awe of him. In reality he is a nothing and the sooner people realize this, the better off numismatic enlightenment will be. Mark my words your rebuttal will either be ignored or belittled and I await the outcome.

Smith, Pete 12/2/88 You are to be commended for "sticking to your guns" in regard to the fantasy put forth by ALNB in regard to the Starred Reverse. Did you notice that after 4 years of repeating that balderdash it is accepted as the Gospel! This is because Dave Bowers thinks only Walter is our God if it will sell coins!! Now perhaps you can see the enormous task of the Half Cent field!! "The Big Red Book" is so full of errors and misthought hypotheses that a book of similar size would be needed just to correct it. The Norweb sale containing Half Cents in October 1987 was the most incredible exhibition of Dave Bowers kissing ALNB's ass I've ever seen. It was done to sell coins!! I think in the long run correcting Bowers is futile. He will only use the information to sell coins, and I am speaking from experience!!

Stillinger 5/20/87 Congratulations, you have been able to get printed on the pages of PW a review of Q. David's work, which is so heavily promoted. Enclosed is an article I wrote for PW back in 1985 which was NOT printed due to the opposition by the powers that be of the EAC. Stick to your guns, you may become unpopular in certain quarters but speaking from experience you'll get used to it.

Stillinger 5/22/87 Thanks for the note and for the copy of your ill-fated 3-book review. I guess our feelings on Dave Bowers' literary output are about the same. Apparently you were dealing with the very conservative Dr. Lapp in 1985 when your review was turned down. The present editor of Penny-Wise, Harry Salyards, seems much more willing to publish pointed and even controversial criticism, especially since he has authored his share of exactly that in the past. So don't be reluctant to try again, if you're so inclined!

Tett 7/11/73 A new 1808 C1 has been found. I have offered McGuigan \$1500 for it. I did this for a number of reasons. First of all while I would like to get it as cheap as possible I also recognize I must make an offer that is going to keep the "opportunists" away such as Hanson, Raymond, Breen, Bill Smith, or any other dealers. I basically feel that there are only two real customers for this coin at the price I offered, you and me. To be perfectly blunt I would appreciate it if you would not overbid me. I will promise you this that if I get the coin and you want the one I have now, which is the discovery specimen, I'm sure we can make a deal.

Tett 8/7/73 At the ANA Sale there are a number of Half Cents. The only one I'm interested in is the 1797 CMM#8. I am tentatively planning to bid on it depending on an examination of the coin at the convention. Are you planning to bid? If so let's not run each other up. My maximum at this time is \$1,300. If you plan a higher bid let me know and I'll lay off. The 1808C1 is still up in the air. The owner is very cagy. I have no intention of letting this coin get away from me.

Tett 9/27/73 I would like your comments on this article before I submit it to PW. The 1808CMM#1 is back with Jim McGuigan. He loaned it to me for photography. After much banter back and forth I just gave up trying to make any type of deal. No matter what I proposed; cash he didn't want, no coins were good enough for his standards etc. etc. He is very cagy. I even upped the ante to \$2500 and he couldn't make up his mind. I think the best course is to do nothing now and just hope he doesn't have a loose moment and trade it off. I hope you are enjoying PW now. The last two issues have had more on Half Cents than in all the issues before. I am very happy that others are writing. All that it took was for people to realize that Walter Breen didn't have a patent or copyright on Half Cent information. I look for a great deal more to come. Another event at the convention was when WK Raymond asked me where all the Ryder Proofs came from that Stack's had. I told him that a customer of Stack's purchased the lot from a dealer I know and disposed of the ones he didn't want to Stacks. I did not mention your name.

Tett 10/5/73 Long letter from Tett on a variety of subjects. Thank you for your discretion about Bill Raymond and the transaction with Weber and Stacks. I like Bill and had lunch with him at ANA. And have bought quite a few half cents from him. However, I am still somewhat shy

about having my activities discussed and appreciate your caution. Regarding your article I do not really have enough experience to make many comments. Will share my meager store of knowledge, however. One nice thing about knowledge is that one's own supply is not diminished by sharing. Again, the same is true of love. Give my best to Alva. Still have fond memories of her dinner and hospitality.

Tett 11/18/73 As a collector I would like to have choice UNC specimens but if for 1/5 the price I can get an EF Copper it makes more sense to me. Paying 5 times extra for a little red color just doesn't make sense to me as a collector. I liked your comments concerning your "meager" store of knowledge. This just isn't so. You've given me quite a bit and mainly in the higher condition specimens which is of course what the condition census is about. It appears to me that outside of the Showers Collection yours appears to be the one in highest condition that I know of. The tracing of Half Cent pedigrees is something that should be done. I think you are in an excellent position to do so. I have some data but a great deal of it has come from you. Just don't be so modest. The DCJ Collector is a known one but very few know who he is and really it isn't that important except that when this collection comes on the market the pedigree of these coins will be known and fully recorded. Alva says hello and as a side comment "I wish all your friends were as nice as Mr. Tettenhorst."

Tett 5/28/79 Debby and I now have two children, another daughter born April 25th. Say hello to Marilyn.

Tett 2/10/80 I purchased this auction lot of material from SQ West. In view of your outstanding service to demicentophiles, we should all offer you any literature that comes along.

Tett 5/7/80 re demicentophiles. SQ West was one. I believe he is a part of a new section of my book which believe it or not is being revised. I plan a section of the history of Half Cent Collecting. Will be sending you sections for your comments and criticisms if you want to. This time there will be a condition census as I understand it. The basic book I believe needs little revision but many areas can now be expanded. There is a basic consideration however which I feel I must keep in mind and that is the new collector i.e. one who is just beginning to get interested. The book should not be too complete as to confuse. This is going to require a good bit of thought but I'm working on it.

Tett 12/26/80 Sorry for the long delay. The office moved on October 1. I took a week off in early December. I added numerous clients and there seems to be no end of things to care of with the clients.

Tett 10/27/86 (letter filed with Wilkinson folder) I will be glad to tell you the Showers story. It is very ordinary, and quite lacking in drama. The core of it is that I offered Joe Flynn a good price if I could buy only the coins I needed, and have first pick. We made a deal on that basis. What I took was a bit over half of the collection.

Tett 6/6/88 I tried to call you a couple of times. Bill Weber tells me he hears you are recovering nicely. All of your friends are concerned about you and wish you well.

Tett 5/17/90 All the half-sense characters missed seeing you, also. We certainly hope you are feeling a good deal better very quickly.

Tett 4/27/93 Dear Debby, Thank you very much for sending me Roger's "Red Book." It is a very important document for anyone attempting to do a condition census or pedigree of Half Cents. I remember at least a couple of occasions where Roger looked things up for me in this book to help give me information about coins I owned. As Mike Packard has probably told you, a picture of Roger was prominently displayed during the Half Cent Happening at the EAC meeting in Dallas last week. I also reported to the EAC membership the fact that Roger's papers had been donated to the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society and would be available for research in the future. This was much appreciated, since most of the serious Half Cent collectors and researchers were in the audience. However, Harry Salyards and I think a brief notice should go in PW as well, subject to your approval. Signed Bernard Edison (Tett)
10/15/2002 Tett sends letter to Debby Cohen with NGC announcement that they will only use Cohen numbers. She writes back that Amy finished college this year and is looking into graduate school, all compliments of the Half Cents. Cate is still training horses.

Ungar 8/13/81 For a vacation I choose Radanthe, NC. Have spent most of the two weeks writing the 2nd Edition. No date for release yet as I won't do so until the printer and binder have it. Then it's another month. Will send you a copy when out. Where we are there is no telephone or television. I've only called my office twice in 12 days from a phone booth about 6 miles away.

Ungar 12/8/81 It's such a pleasure to talk with you. I realize that my contribution to any technical conversation is minimal, but I really enjoy you. He lets his rare Half Cents be photographed for 2nd edition. Many of his coins sold to RK (Knox) Ivey.

Ungar 6/21/82 Thank you for sending me a leather-bound 2nd Edition. Your latest listing caught me at a strange time. I just don't seem to care anymore! As you well know, I was never one to be well-studied on these coins, and I certainly never went out of my way to meet all those who are interested. Recent years have cooled an already cool interest. It used to be fun to look for them at shows-it seemed that no one else did. But now, I never see a piece that hasn't already been researched and sold twice before I see it! One reason is that I am basically lazy—another is that I really don't care!! This attitude change may be temporary (my wife says I'm going through mid-life crisis-I don't know) or it may not. Do you understand why I'm writing this letter? I'm not sure that I do, but I did write it, so there.

Valenziano 10/10/81 You're on the list for a free copy of the 2nd edition since you have shared your information with me over the last few years. I think this is the least I can do to thank you for your efforts. I expect to have the book in hand by December. What do you grade the 1794 #3 which you got from "Jaws" Loring at ANA?

Valenziano 11/21/82 News flash! Richard Shimkus is selling his Half Cent collection and he is giving me first crack at it.

Valenziano 12/6/82 I don't generally deal in coins so suggest you call me before sending them. Was able to handle this as I was having a meeting with Bob Yuell and Joe Kane to go over my duplicates.

Valenziano 5/23/83 I am glad you are making this information available through PW. You could have done like Breen, promise to publish the info, at a later date, if we all sent you a bunch of money, then make excuses.

Valenziano 5/29/83 Enjoyed your comments on Breen. I find it interesting what newer collectors think of him. I've put up with it for 30 years.

Valenziano 1/12/84 The last I heard of the "magnum opus" Jack Collins in order to save 40% on the printing costs had the book sent to Japan to be printed. This was back in June 1983. Since nothing has been released I have heard two rumors. 1) The book was typeset in Japanese 2) the manuscript was put "on a slow boat to China." Whatever the excuse the "California Cabal" is now two years late. To me it's an old, old story. I've been waiting since 1952 and fully expect to be "six feet under" when it finally shows up.

Valenziano 12/29/83 In response to ad in Coin World You went to all that trouble to write a book when you could have received "recognition" by sending Walter Breen et al only \$100. Next thing you know he will be selling confirmed reservations to heaven.

Valenziano 1/20/84 About Breen's book, I doubt if it will ever be published.

Valenziano 4/16/84 Next years EAC convention will be April 11-14 in Chicago, Ill. I hope this date will not be too much of a problem for you.

Valenziano 4/29/84 Thanks for the info on the next EAC meeting. I had heard from Joe Kane that you had the honor of putting it on. The dates April 11 to 14 are totally impossible for me. In my work the period of March 6th to May 1st is critical. During this period I work about 90 hours a week. I don't have time for anything other than work and basic bodily functions. When the meeting was here in Washington in 1980, while I was at the convention I was going back to the office each evening and putting in hours. Such is the life of a CPA in public practice. For this year's convention I scheduled thinking I could take the 4 days off but as the date approached it became more evident I just could not be away those days. Oh well, maybe 1986 I'll be able to make it.

Valenziano 5/6/84 As usual the Breen (Bullshit) data is quite inadequate and if it ever is published it will create a lot of questions to be resolved. This should be interesting as we Half Cent collectors just love challenges. But when all is settled we will come to the algebraic equation of $BR = BU$ or Breen = Bullshit.

Valenziano 8/28/84 Breen review in Coin World picture of possibly Breen and Cohen

Valenziano 10/9/84 Xerox of a coin envelope from Munde with Hanson's writing and RSC's explanation of the notations

Valenziano 5/12/85 Coin pressing 1794C1b

Valenziano 7/20/85 Coin pressing 1794 C7

Ward 4/25/80 EAC Revision Committee for Large Cent Books

outline by Pete Smith- At the 1980 EAC convention I was asked to make up an outline of steps necessary for publication of the book revisions. I view this as a start, not the finished product. I would like comments, questions, and suggestions how this outline can be improved. I don't know what the next step should be. I am also not sure what part I play with the revision committee. I am honored to be involved with the committee and am happy to contribute whatever I can. Roger, you weren't at the meeting when all this was discussed. You are the one person in the group who has been through the whole process with your book. I am sure you will be able to add a lot from your experience. We have been talking about some uniformity among the three large cent books. Your revisions of the half cent book could also be included. I would be interested to hear your thoughts about this. From RSC Sounds like a 7th grade homework assignment for English class outline.

Ward-long letter on thoughts on how to put the books together

Cohen 4/25/80 Your thoughts in regard to the Revision Committee which I was just put on are of interest to me. First of all I plan to listen to the Committee, just read your comments cum grand salis. Perhaps this is a little cavalier but you must understand that I have received loads of advice in the past. When one starts to write a book there are many considerations such as am I writing this to make \$ or am I interested in creating what I think "the book" should be? These are not diametrically opposed but from my experience this was a basic consideration. For your information I have deliberately kept my book out of the hands of jobbers who in turn would make it available at any coin store. What I have done is to sell it to those who ask for it and the prospective customer has to do a little work before he gets it such as join EAC. Financially this is not the way to do it. However prior to my book the Half Cent field was dominated by persons who did not want anyone but themselves to have knowledge. My book has changed this. In addition via the pages of PW we now have persons who are not afraid of offending God by getting their thoughts and observations in print. It's taken a good while to break the former hold on information. Another major consideration in writing a book is not to make it so complex that the neophyte doesn't understand it nor should it be so simple that the advanced collector is repelled. There was a lot of thought that went into this in writing my book. Perhaps this is why it lacks "color". Your specific comments on my book were great. First the format of my book is not reminiscent of John Wright's articles. My book was put out in 1971. John wrote his articles in 1975 + 76. I believe he copied my format and made his changes. You might also want to read John Wright's review of my book in the January or March issue of PW. One thing that keeps coming up in the field of books is a "Publisher." A publisher is no more than the person who puts up the \$. I had no publisher. I dug down into my own "sock" to put up the \$. And it took five years to get it back. A publisher looks only at the \$. I doubt any publisher would be interested unless he needs a "tax loss" for undertaking the publishing of the Revision Committee's work. The EAC could never get together to agree to spend the kind of \$ needed. Our treasurer is well-known for his parsimony both personally and with EAC funds so forget it! The Revision Committee also has a major problem with the copyright as John Wright's articles were published without any copyright notice in PW. Copyright is an interesting subject which

most people don't understand. Luckily I had a copyright lawyer as a client who showed me what to do. The distribution of books is another matter which someone has to do some work on. I handled my own and as set forth before I try to keep it on a rather low key. I could write on and on but I close now. Just keep in mind that your advice was interesting but despite everything I'll do what I damn good and well please about a revision.

Weber 6/27/73 book selling mentions ads Scrapbook, Numismatist, Krouse

I would rather sell one copy to an interested person than sell 100 to someone who will just dump on the market estimate 5-8 year supply the purpose of the book is to identify varieties and not provide every bit of minutiae on Half Cents review I have a vitriolic pen when it comes to the past writings of WB CMM numbers becoming more prevalent I want to spread what I know. I want to clearly have it understood when I am making a surmise or a guess. My approach is so different than in the past 20 years of mixing facts, guesses, and astrology all set forth as facts. Breen "You have your answer, now believe what I say and don't question" I find facts, surmise, conclude, present, let you decide. My writing is democratic, WB's that of a deity.

6/30/73 Condition less important than owning most ridiculous example is Civil War bullets. In this area literally millions have been found in the ground. Yet when they are sold those bullets which were not fired from guns and therefore not misshaped bring a higher price. This is a perfect example of condition snobbery. Munson and Munde thought I was "rocking the boat enough" by consigning the "proof-only dates" to "second-class citizenship".

7/31/82 Mint considers move to DC

8/1/88 I have avoided using anything in my writings that Breen has ever written that I cannot verify. The reason for this position is that I never want to give Breen the opportunity to say I plagiarized anything from him.

2/5/73 been a Half Cent collector for 26 years, not always active

2/24/73 been collecting Half Cents since 1947 sold out in 1953 boost came after reading "Early American Cents" the book, as published, is not a financial bonanza after selling 600 copies in the past year. I'm still in the hole but frankly I don't care about the financial aspect. What I do care about is getting info out which has been jealously guarded for financial gain I want info, but unlike others, I want to make it a two-way street

6/10/73 Weber visit enjoyed animal feeding time Weber gives ideas to sell more books

WB and Jon Hanson have been on the scene longer and are seen as the "authority" by most collectors and dealers

6/16/73 sell books-will regain basement room recommend establishing RSC as the recognized Half Cent authority

Weber 9/28/73 new die break variety

Weber 9/18/87 Weber describes showing his collection to Breen in 1959. Breen did not make notes, I felt Breen believed I had a significant collection but he never indicated if so, corresponded about, or even indirectly acknowledged. So I just continued to plug away and never knew, until you and I met, the stature of my Half Cent collection. What struck me as I

enjoyed viewing Jack Beymer's Half Cent collection was this. You, Tett, and I discovered something in 1979 at St. Louis that represented the ONLY way we'll ever create a valid half cent CC. It was again evident making side-by-side comparisons. A coin graded EF45 by the seller, Jack graded VF30, I graded VF20/25. We still are without a common STANDARD of yardstick we can apply with any consistency among experienced collectors.

Post mark 4/19/89 Well, how is retirement? I hope you are backing off now and taking it very easy.

Postmark 8/22/89 Weber pictures

5/18/88 I'm hoping no news is good news. Tried to reach you last Saturday and one of the kinder said you'd gone back to the hospital. Hope it was a short and uneventful stay. Your interest in my 94C5b and 6b an assurance by me that you'd have first refusal still stands. Now, what would you propose in a swap, sell, or combination from them?? Anyhow it may be that we could work something out. Will we have a party to celebrate the first ever assembling of a complete variety set of us half cents!! Maybe a diet Coke and tofu??

Weber 11/10/86 Weber letter and bids he entered for RSC at Robbie Brown I sale RSC was in Louisiana last week for course and battlefield visiting

Weber 6/17/86 I hope you've kicked back and are enjoying your family, coins, tokens, guns, dogs and cats, and other outside interests you have. Work is neat but it does exact a toll and I'd like to see you around for many years

RSC photos of "The lord meets the master" discusses in detail his thoughts about third edition, including price, numbers, and marketing The chapter on errors seems to have been done for two purposes 1- to massage Tett's ego by picturing his coins and 2- to massage Walter's ego by turning out something that I basically ignored in my book. As I've said before, the "Big Red Book" will be available for coin club door prizes well into the 21st century.

Weber 7/1/86 detailed letter on suggestions for 3rd edition

5/19/87 letter from Weber wanting to know why RSC is disinterested and friendship seems to be waning RSC long response start with that god damn office of mine. This tax season was the worst I have ever experienced. Lousy help, a so-called partner that I had to throw out, work not done, clients dissatisfied. I'm rapidly becoming burned out. I'm so damn tired of complaints, nit-picking, and fault-finding I could puke!! I'm avoiding calls and letters from gun collectors. I put off till after April 15, people want to photograph guns, borrow bayonets for drawings, photograph my civil war relics since I found so much "good stuff". To do these right now I need time- I don't have it. I need 28 stamps to complete my US collection. (of them will be in the auction this weekend here in Washington, will I go, probably not.) Describes coins EAC and sleeping thru meeting, Del Bland visit, Future EAC conventions burn out!!

Whitaker 11/10/74 discovers 95#6b with undertype (1st known) Walter Breen in earlier writings had stated that cutdown but not rolled out misstruck cents were the source. Walter never indicated his source for his ex-cathedra statement and as you may or may not know he did

everything he could to stop me from putting out my book. Thus I did not include any statements of his unless I could be sure they were correct

5/24/80 Scratch pads for narrow minded bastards

Widok 2/26/84 Jim McGuigan does not feel that a damaged coin such as yours should ever be in the condition census. Since he graded it VG8 you can see a condition census is subject to a lot of opinions and for the compiler a real headache!

Wilkinson 7/20/76 I'm very glad that others are writing about Half Cents. If you have all the copies of PW you will find that in the first five years very little appeared other than what I wrote. Over the last five years there has been quite a bit. Furthermore I haven't done all of it. Others are writing and sharing information which is not the way it was before when a select few hoarded the data. Oh well it's sure been a change for the better.

Wilkinson 7/22/76 I thoroughly enjoyed writing the article about the 1811 die deterioration, but it was very hard work! I had Mr. Katman help me because he knows of the die states that I don't and because he is somewhat known as compared to having an article written by some Indiana farm boy.

Wilkinson 8/9/76 That's a good piece of information that you got concerning Commodore Eaton's article in the 1921 Numismatist. I looked it up since I now have Quarterman's Book. Needless to say I had not seen these articles. As I read it he claims 1b, 2b, 4b, and 5b. This was before the Alvord Sale of 1924. This deserves mention now. It would be in the revision of my book but this is a number of years away. Working with the old articles out of the "Numismatist" is quite interesting. I worked on the Ross articles and I had to draw up charts to decode which variety he was writing about. I first translated it to Gilbert and then to my system. I found that Ross had a much better idea of emission sequence than Gilbert. Another thing of interest is the timing of Gilbert's work being published (March 1916) and Ross' articles which began in 1915 in the "Numismatist". If you have even a reprint of Gilbert you will note there is no mention of Ross. Also in May 1916 Ross put an article in the Numismatist listing all varieties he knew of. This was probably due to the publication of Gilbert's book. Eaton evidently was turned to writing articles due to omissions and errors in Gilbert's and Ross' work. I found this to be of general interest, thus showing that many times data is rediscovered. I believe you should write this up for PW. I'll be glad to go over it if you want me to, however DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT. Drop the idea that you're just "some Indiana farm boy." Write what you think! You don't have to have the approval or OK of someone else. The EAC will publish, don't worry what you write. All of this contributes to the body of knowledge of half cents. The only thing I have ever requested is just a note that I supplied some information. This is one of my faults with Katman is his reluctance to give anyone credit. I jumped all over him about his articles on the 1804 #6 + #7 and if you will note he later gave us credit for helping him. On your article he did put you in as a co-author but who did he give credit to for the 2 star break? At the present time there are 4 specimens known to my knowledge. Your finds are unique at this time and I'm glad

that you still have them. Don't let people pry them away from you. If you stay in the field of Half Cents you will be very glad you kept them. You'll probably find more as time goes on. I had this business of trying to get things away from me such as the discovery specimens of 1795 #6b and 1808 #1. I held out and in time have gotten to be known in the field of Half Cents. I think McGuigan was a fool to part with his 1808 C#1. That incident just shows the power of \$ or to put it another way the five-fingered sign. Well I'll close now. I think you'll find I'm pretty frank about most things and am working to expand the knowledge of Half Cents and I don't give a damn WHO lets the data be known. Just get it out so all of us can learn.

Wilkinson 8/12/76 I'm of the opinion that Eaton only listed what we would call 1794 C1b, 5b, and 4b but no C2b. I think Alvord had one C2b and two C1b's in his sale. How much information does your acquaintance, Walter Breen, have on this subject? Would he be willing to tell me?

Wilkinson 8/31/76 When it comes to CMM #5 + #6 of 1795 there seems to be no correlation between planchets and die states. What you are playing with is the use of planchets which were first made and then used for coinage. This also applies to the lettering of planchets which is a separate operation from coinage. When the planchets were made is important when the mint made them but when they were secured in bulk such as from Boulton or Crocker the planchets were uniform. What you are playing with is the concept of inventory which is something that accountants even today have considerable discussion about. There are 3 basic inventory methods which I will write about. First is FIFO which stands for First In , First Out. No. 1 was made first. It is assumed under FIFO that No. 1 is used first. But how can you be sure? 2nd is LIFO which stands for Last In, First Out. Under this method No. 3 is assumed to be used first. Again, how can you be sure? 3rd is not an official method of inventory but is very common. This method is known as the FUBAR method which stands for Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition. This I believe is the method used by the mint. Just who is to say which planchets from the lots were used when? There can be positive evidence such as on 1795 2b but this I believe to be the exception rather than the rule. Both Debby and I enjoyed seeing you at ANA. I purchased one coin (a Sheldon) but Debby ended up with a number of Colonials and a National Bank Note signed by her great-great uncle. That made the show for us as we had been looking for some time.

Wilkinson 9/18/76 McGuigan came by last week and we went to the Illinois State show. Right after he got here I asked him if he had heard about the upcoming new Cohen number. He said, "No, what has Roger found now?" I told him about the child that will arrive in October. Jim kind of liked the pun.

Wilkinson 9/23/76 I tentatively plan to show up for the big Half Cent confab which was mentioned in PW in late November but don't mention it to anyone, as the decision to go or not to go will probably be made at the last minute. I sure don't plan to come barging in with a new Cohen and expect to be put up. I will call Lusk or McGuigan first however if I decide to attend.

Wilkinson 10/5/76 I had heard of the Schoenwalter Collection but never seen it. I'm sorry I missed him. I'm enclosing the new supplement to my book which I am enclosing to new purchasers.

Wilkinson 11/1/76 Please do not mistake the tone of my letter as chutzpah; it's just that I'd much rather you have that coin than any of the following kind of collector; a vulture, a hole-filler, or someone who just beats people over the head with a stack of money to get the coins he wants. i.e. if you get it, I know that it will be truly appreciated.

Wilkinson 12/21/76 I enjoyed your comments on W. K. Raymond. Just remember he's a dealer despite what he says everything he owns is for sale. The 1794 4b, 5b, and 6b will be sold when he can get enough cash or a trade that he can turn into cash. The attempt to get your 1811's was, of course, trying to trade them to me for my right arm, right leg, and right testicle. I had seen all the coins WKR had at the MSNS show on 11/21 at my home. I did get one upgrade a 1797 #2 in VF30 which was a coin that Tettenhorst had outbid me on in a 1973 Stacks Sale. The price to me was reasonable in view of what I had bid at the sale so I took it. Other than that there was nothing I could afford or wanted. I'm really sorry I couldn't get to the MSNS show but I can't spend all my spare time on coins.

Wilkinson 9/23/77 It was really good to see you and Debra at the ANA in Atlanta.

Wilkinson 10/15/81 I was at Long Beach actually I sat behind Jim's table along with Bill Weber. It was an interesting show. I got to see Jack Beymer's Half Cents as well as a number of others. Jon Hanson's coins are another matter. They were in a case at the EAC Meeting. They were in boxes and only one side was up. No one to my knowledge of the "great unwashed public" got to see both sides of the coins. For he is a condition snob. I have been able to figure out where some of these coins came from such as the 1793 which was in the Merkin March 1968 Sale where Breen rated it EF45. The 1794 which had the obverse up has been reported as a #8 or #9, unfortunately the reverse was not seen. I have not included any of Hanson's coins in my cc records unless they are already in from another source. Hanson is not cooperative and really doesn't want anyone to know what he has. He is also a one-way street. He will take data from you but will not return or share anything he knows. In going back over my collection I was surprised how many coins I have from Munde that are Ex-Breen and Hanson. Breen has no collection. I am also of the opinion that his book will be a great disappointment to Half Cent collectors. He is out of date and most collectors now know more than he does. I saw him a good bit at Long Beach. I even let them photograph one of my 1800's which is the rusted die state. Breen had no idea this existed. I also noted that, as I expected, nothing came back to me in the way of data. I think their book if ever published will have higher rarity ratings than my Second Edition, also the condition census will be lower. After 30 years of promises and no publication do you think anything will change? Brace yourself if it comes out it's going to be a flop- unless it's promoted. By the way if you ever talk to Breen don't use my numbers. He doesn't know them. He claims to have never seen my book which is a lie. He saw it in December 1971. He has also changed his tune about the number of overstrikes used on 1795 dated half Cents struck in 1796. He now says 50,000 were overstruck yet he refuses to give me credit for pointing out

his error that was printed repeatedly that 32,000 overstruck were made. If you will look at my 1971 book I devoted two paragraphs in the General Comments section on 1795 to point out that Walter used the Troy scale for copper, which is incorrect. He also made a 10,000 error in multiplication. Yet he claims never to have seen my book! What a bullshitter! I could write pages about ALNB. John Wright is another matter. I wrote to him five years ago imploring him to quit using the cheap method of getting his studies published via PW. I believe it's too late as PW was not copyrighted in those days. It's free information to anyone who wants to publish it now.

Wilkinson 8/29/82 I've been talking with Jim McGuigan over the past few months, and he's told me that the two of you have tentatively planned a Half cent whist match for Pittsburgh the last weekend in September. Is this event still on? If it's scheduled, I'll try to be there as it would be the greatest Half Cent whist match ever, to my knowledge. Jim was telling me that the encyclopedia should be finished soon, which sounds like a very familiar song. Will you have to pay off any of your bets? All joking aside I do pray that the bitterness between you and Walter would stop. If his book ever does come out, it should help to clarify some of the pedigree malarkey that has persisted for years.

Wilkinson 10/21/82 Here is a copy of the write-up as submitted to Dr. Lapp. I hope he publishes it as is as I am tired of reports in EAC meetings that say "We saw some coins, but we won't tell you what they were." Well, I'm telling them. Apparently Bill Smith wrote the "Way Out West" – "Three months from now" letter to you. At least that's what he told JRM. Del Bland sent me a note saying Ted Naftzger used to collect Half Cents, but sold them in the TJ Clarke Sale. Del also said the Ryder coins that Wayne Raymond bought were sold in a mail bid sale in Nov. 1945. Oh yes, Jack Collins is recovering from a near-fatal heart attack. Hope you keep away from that button!

Wilkinson 9/22/84 I still don't have the magnum opus in all its Big Red glory- after waiting 13 days I called Jack Beymer- found they had sent it to old post office box- ordered another one- that was on 9/18 and it's too early but my anxiety is getting the best of me. I just want to dig in. Sent two 94-2b's to Don V. He was astonished at the price I asked, so I cut it and still he doesn't seem to be able to reconcile paying \$1500 for the G6 Munde specimen. The grade is super conservative (Jon Hanson's). He may have shown it to you. This is why I have so damn many coins. I really don't want to sell them. Right now my main collection is 275 specimens and another 315 which if I ran through all the die states I could put another 150 in the main collection. While I don't have a cc collection I think the collection is the tops for completion in the country.

Wilkinson 8/1/84 Coin pressings 1793 C1, 1806 C3. I looked at the Breen book. The pictures are ok, but WB goes into great minutia, much of which is wrong. My name is in his book for reporting the discovery of the 1794 4b, 5b, and 6b. Katman got credit for the die states of 1811 C1. WB claimed ignorance of my part in their discovery, but he saw them at EAC in Chicago in 1977. I think it will be perfectly obvious he's had little contact with collectors. He, WB, was

most proud of his picture in the front and the drawings of Collins and Hanson and another chap working the coining machinery.

Wilkinson undated 1985 I just pity Del Bland, or should I say he must be incredibly arrogant to think he can establish the pedigrees of the top 10-12 coins of 300+ early cent varieties. Maybe we can tell Del how mad many half cent collectors were (are) about the treatment of their coins in the BRB and ask him if he wants large cent folks mad at him. He should also receive a nice letter from you informing him of the plagiarisms (with documentation) WB made from your 1st edition and end the letter with the question "do you really want this guy to write the LC book?" Of course, I think folks will believe WB before they'll believe RSC, FEW, Weber, Tett, Braig, Carvin, or all half cent collectors combined.

Wilkinson 6/21/86 The coin is definitely one of the better ones for the variety although Hanson would definitely list it as one in AU 55 unless he was selling then it should be MS65 blazing unsurpassed gem of the first water ad nauseum.

Wilkinson 8/15/87 EHR Green documents

5/9/87 Supreme Court case of EHR Green and Pfeffer letter describing how to get info

Wilkinson 6/17/87 Roger, here is a copy of the notice I received from the IRS Friday. Thanks for helping me out.

Wilkinson 6/17/87 another one I'm going to give Miss Clutz some money soon to convince her I'm serious about her chasing down records about Col. Green. I really appreciate your handling of my tax case. I'd have no idea of how to deal with the commission.

Wilkinson 8/15/87 I am going to have Miss Clutz call the New Bedford, Mass. Public library to see if they can be of any benefit. If it's a gold mine, I'll have her stay a day or two, if necessary, to copy all the documents we want.

Wilkinson 5/25/88 I was quite concerned for you when I heard you had had a heart attack. I'm glad you are recovering. Surely, someone must like you a lot. To date the Green Collection included the bulk of Brownings' quarters, probably Beastle's halves, the best of the Newcomer Coll., Eaton's Half Cents, Hillyer Ryder's Half Cents, Mass. and Vermonts, and when sold formed the backbone of the Newman, Dupont, "Ruder", FCC Boyd, and Farouk Collections. Material related to Green collection including Newman letter

Wilkinson 7/16/88 letter from John Borhek re Col. Green Estate. In the late 1920' I worked summers in an investment firm across the street from the First National Bank of Boston. One day after the Col. died a fleet of Brinks Express trucks brought his valuables up to their vault. FEW says I'm beginning to wonder how big the Col.'s collection was as I'm beginning to feel like a ship approaching an iceberg!

Wilkinson 7/23/88 Long letter about lots of things much is about Eric Newman and EHR Green Collection

Wilkinson 10/7/88 Wilkinson lists collections he'd like to photograph. Montgomery, Katman, Reiver, Borchardt, RSC new coins, Kane, Goss, Yuell, Schoenwalter, Gene Reale, Pfeffer, Donald Groves (Partrick), Bill Jones, Borhek, John J. P. Pittman, Lusk, Leonard, and Weber. RSC replies Thursday was the big day for me. Weber sent me some coins. On that day I could

say that I had in my possession all 99 varieties and subvarieties. It has taken me from October 1973 to date, some 15 years to acquire a complete collection again. I wonder how long it will last this time before a new variety or subvariety is found. I do not agree with ANLB that planchets make subvarieties. Weber has sold my 1794 #6a (F12) and pictured in my First Edition to Rick Leonard. Weber and I have a few details to work out. He sent me his best examples of 1804 #1, #5, and #8, some of which were photographed in the Big Red Book. I was frankly somewhat disappointed in their condition. I couldn't help but note the plethora of these varieties in my collection and duplicate box. I gave up some CC#1 coins but I guess it's worth it to slide back to CC #7.

Tom Wolf 11/29/73 I was very pleased with your comments on my book which appeared in PW last March. These are the kind of unsolicited testimonials that I really enjoy. I cannot attend the January show. That time of year is my busy time so I have to forgo all coin activities from January 1 to April 15.

Tom Wolf 12/10/76 Yes I did pick up a S-210 but it's for my Sheldon set. It's not generally known that I collect the Sheldon series. Nor is it known that my wife Debby collects Colonials. My Sheldon set has 254 varieties with the usual result that I need most R7 and R8 varieties.

Wright 10/25/76 I felt you might like to hear from someone who doesn't collect the 1816-1857 series by variety, but together with Sheldon & Breen has put forth a numbering system for a series of Early American Copper. What you wrote was exactly the thought process I went through on Half Cents. The original Half Cent list was done by Proskey, and a layer of sediment laid on by Gilbert and Elder. It is interesting in my field that Ross did a very good job and much more in keeping with what I eventually turned out. However Ross seems to have lost out since his articles were a series in the Numismatist which started about a year before Gilbert-Elder came out with their book in March 1916. It seems to be an interesting bit of numismatic history to uncover why there was no cooperation between Ross and Gilbert but it's only history now and Gilbert was the one I would displace, along with Breen. My success at this, I can only let the other collectors determine! However, when a sale such as Ruby (1974) is catalogued without a single reference to my book, comments such as were written by Ernest J. Montgomery on page 194 of the 7/15/76 issue of PW are heard by me. Walter Breen has yet to learn that ignoring my book such as he did with the Ruby catalogue makes a real fool of himself. Enough of this. Now as to you and my four Half Cents worth. 1) you are making a mistake in continuing to publish the years in PW 2) Your format is excellent for each date. I see a little bit of my format in it and that's just fine. After all, civilization is built on the efforts of precursors. 3) Get yourself a publisher and get your work out. Don't try to make \$ on the book. I could write pages about what I went through and it was only last year that I finally broke even. As you may or may not know I have acted as my publisher and distributor but in your case I think you might do better letting someone else do it. I'll tell you as much as you want about the business aspect and the

book business but not by letter 4) On the numbering system my vote goes for #7. So I'll give you mine. W16-03, W20-09. This system uses the initial and the date, the hyphen sets off the variety. When I put out my book I used the designation CMM in my table of equivalents but nowhere else in the book. I deliberately did not use the designation C as it is too often confused in handwriting with G. However I have been overridden by the collectors who if my numbering system is to be adapted seem to have the right to choose the letter designation.

Wright 1/25/81 mentions metal detector used in Poolesville, MD question for John Wright's column "Ask John" What are Breen numbers, Cohen defers

Wright 11/82 Collins heart attack, publication April or May

Wright 1/27/86 Am I correct in assuming that you want me to file with IRS this year? If so send me the Treasurers Report and copies of the check stubs. I'll take it from there. I assume also you have heard about my not-for-publication letter to David Thomason Alexander in response to his unwarranted criticism of Penny-Wise.

Yuell 12/17/73 Do you still play Half Cent whist? Have you won all of your games?

Yuell 12/26/73 Got your letter of 12/17/73 and I'll try to answer your questions about myself. I'm enclosing a history of my collection at this time. As you can see I have very few of the condition census coins. You will also be able to pick out the subvariety of 1794 that I need. It happens to be a new discovery. If you will read the preface in my book you will get an idea of my history of collecting Half Cents. For many years I was unable financially to buy many of the rarer varieties and higher condition coins. I well remember Hilyer Ryder and Anderson-Dupont sales in the 1950's and Brobston Sale in 1963 and thinking I just can't afford the coins (they seem cheap now). 1963 was particularly bad as I started my business that year and only earned 60% of what I did the year before as an employee. However in those years prior to 1968, when I finally got into a financial position to afford some of the higher priced one's, I kept my "eyes peeled" for all Half Cents. I still do. The results of my looking were fairly good. I discovered the 1808 CMM#1 and the 1795 CMM#6b. I found a number of the scarcer varieties but mostly in low grades such as the 1811 2-star break. One thing that was different in those days, other than the prices, were the rarity ratings. They were too high. If you were to compare my latest rarity ratings with the Empire Guide you will find that quite a few have been reduced as much as two steps. The Empire rarity ratings were done by Walter Breen. I believe he sets his rarity ratings high so that coins will sell at higher prices. There are at least 3 Half Cent collectors who have more condition census coins than I have. However I don't know of any collection which has as many varieties as I have. These other collectors seem to concentrate on the high condition coins. I'm sure you now know that a number of the varieties are not known in high grade. These are the varieties that are usually missing from the super grade collectors. To me it is far more interesting to own the variety than it is to own only an uncirculated specimen. The over-emphasis on condition in coin collecting is in my opinion absurd. I've always felt that I was happy to have the variety and why pay \$200 to \$1000 more for a so-called higher grade coin which has probably been recolored. As you can see I'm somewhat out-of-step with the current condition

craze which has pushed half cents to ridiculous prices. No, I haven't played whist with anyone since my match with Munde, prior to acquiring his coins. To date I have only played three times; Ray Munde beat me twice and I beat Paul Munson. Since that time no one has challenged me. I've met with 3 collectors who had fair-sized collections but when they found out the number of varieties I had they decided against a whist match. Just the same I really enjoyed looking at their coins, as I've found that every Half Cent collection either has a die state I didn't have or he has noticed something that I haven't.

Yuell 1/13/76 I do not assign rarity to die states such as you request in your letter of 12/7.

However I've filled out your letter but remember what I've put down is what I know of. There are probably many I have no record of. Die states are interesting but I do not think they need rarity assignments. This is usually done by sellers to tout the coins. There is nothing like a high price if you can create demand.

Yuell 12/10/77 I really don't have time to answer your letter of 8/27. It's just too long for a letter. I realize that it's somewhat of a disappointment but what is needed is a session like we had in November 1976.

Yuell 10/2/81 I saw your letter to the editor in "The Asylum" Vol. I, #4. Give 'em hell, Rog. It annoys me also that some people choose not to recognize your terrific work.

Yuell 10/10/81 Thank you for your note about the letter I wrote to the "Asylum". Jack Collins is a real horse's ass. Did you notice he's had to get Breen to come to his rescue. He (Collins) doesn't know anything about Half Cents. As I stated I have no quarrel with Breen over his article. What blew my mind was the editor's (Collins) note. You might also look up the word coprophagist. Nothing could describe Jack Collins better. I do not plan to continue the argument as I believe I had made my point. Perhaps one of the most telling things about the printed record is that I do not know exactly when Joseph Brobston died. Nor do I think Breen knows. Breen's statement that he had not seen my book by 1972 is a lie, he saw it in 12/71 when we were at an EAC meeting in NY. This can go on and on but in due time Half Cent collectors will be able to decide. Walter and Jack Collins have announced that after 30 years of promises and no production Walter definitely will be putting out a book on Half Cents. Perhaps it is just coincidental but my 2nd edition will be coming out in December. I was at the EAC Meeting in Long Beach, Calif. last weekend when the big announcement of Walter's book was made. Without going into details I am surprised how much Walter does not know about Half Cents. He has boycotted my book and I am of the opinion that the average Half Cent collector as of now and a person such as yourself knows far more about Half Cents than he does. This may be hard to believe to you as for the last 30 years Walter has created the impression he knows it all. But in fact he doesn't. If his book comes out it will provide a good comparison. He may know a little more than me as to the chain of ownership on certain significant Half Cents that have appeared at auction but I consider this to be only a minor point in the overall picture of the story of Half Cents. I am sure his rarity ratings will be higher than mine simply because he has not seen the number of coins I have and as a writer of auction catalogues the higher the rarity the more you can squeeze out of the buyer of a coin. Enough of this- as I said time will tell.

Yuell 10/25/81 Thanks also about the information about the "Asylum" caper. I just do not understand how some people can ignore the definitive work on the subject. I have also noticed for a long time that some dealers still use the Gilbert numbers. I just do not understand this. I assume your book was announced and then Walter Breen and Jack Collins decided also to publish.

Yuell 12/30/81 I know that you said you had 2000 printed up of the first edition (with 7 bad ones, for a total of 1993. How many were sold? How many did you autograph? I know I ask too many questions but I figure go to the guy who knows.

Yuell 7/31/82 Did I answer the questions for you? I don't mind the questions. To be precise your questions at meetings do much to spread information among those who are there. Whether the audience is listening is up to them. It looks as though you may win our bet as to December 31, 1982. The last I heard was another promise. This time for the end of August 1982 has been mailed, but then again how many times have these promises been broken in the past. Assuming this pile of BS will come out set aside a good bit of time to think of questions to ask the author and publisher. I'd love to see your letter, even more their response. Will be on the Outer Banks of North Carolina for the last 2 weeks of August.

Yuell 12/12/82 The children and Debby are outside playing in the snow and I'm writing which appeals to me more than getting wet and cold.

Yuell 9/7/84 While Bowers says my book is on par with Gilbert he sure helped himself to a lot of my books info!! Bowers seems to share a lot with Breen- both suffer from diarrhea of the typewriter and somehow my book doesn't measure up! I've got a copy of the Encyclopedia (of Balderdash). The critique I plan will take a year to write. Liberal use of red Bullshit stamp, both plain and in Hebrew

Yuell 2/17/86 You can move up to 90 varieties. Not too many people get there. A few more make it into the 80's. You're there now. Signed your arrogant illiterate tacky friend as Yuell signs his Reasonably Famous NJ Collector

Yuell 5/21/86 RSC at EAC Did you enjoy your talk with Breen? I noticed that Weber got a picture. RSC note very interesting talk. I can't say I enjoyed it but it had to be done!

Box 6

Folder of Material for Penny-Wise

Half Cent Coinage of 1799

Draft of article for PW Let us first turn to the written records. The National Archives has some data. This federal institution has preserved those records that have been turned over to it. The mint records were transferred to the Archives in 1933. Prior to that they had been stored in Philadelphia. It took until 1952 to prepare a Preliminary inventory of the Mint records. Today when a person wants to see these records he must first refer to a series of cards which list "entries". These consist of groups of papers or bound books. The listing is long and requires much time. Once a person selects various "entries" much time must also be spent in just reviewing what was obtained. One very important fact emerges while going through the material. The person who kept the records many years ago had no idea that their descendants would be interested in things that they considered to be normal or unimportant. Most of the Mint Records consist of accounting records and summaries of these records. There is also a large amount of "correspondence" which consists of loose papers of many types such as invoices, bills of lading, reports and letters both sent and received. As pointed out earlier the Mint records are catalogued in a preliminary inventory. It is known that other records are at the Archives but not yet cataloged. Thus even if a researcher went through everything cataloged he still wouldn't have seen every paper in existence in the Archives. I have set forth the above information so that the reader can see that much more information may be obtained in future years. At this point in time let us consider one particular entry in Record Group 104 (which is the Archives grouping of the Mint records.) Entry no. 46 is "Account Book for Delivery of Cents and Half Cents 1796-1803". This book is quite worn and battered, Its condition by the Sheldon scale might be described as Fair-2. It is a "gold mine" of information. This book has been used as the principal source for most written information covering copper coins for many years even back to 1799.

Typed copy of 1795 dated Half Cent struck over a 1796 dated large cent

List of Half Cents seen at ANA Convention

5/6/84 Dear John and Warren, Thanks for sending me Mr. Fuller's letter in regard to the Income Tax aspect of coin collecting. Specifically his question is one that should be able to be answered as it represents a sort of a procedural one. However this just isn't so. From experience I'm sure you've had the situation where you realize that a simple question involves a complex answer. The question in that letter represents such a situation to me, and it's too complex to even explain the complexities in this letter but it brings up another subject which is the EAC's role in services to its members. In my second edition on page 129 I wrote about the tax aspect of coin collecting. My advice was that there were sources of tax advice available and that it was beyond the scope

of my book. I believe the EAC should adopt this position. Will the pages of "Penny-Wise" fill up with "How to do it advice" on legal problems, medical problems, social security questions, and even plumbing problems? What would the liability of the EAC be if this advice turned out to be wrong or if a member misconstrued the advice and found himself in a quandary? I for one say no advice or recommendation that could create a problem for the EAC. There is a fine line that is hard to define between assisting the membership on coin-related problems and exposing the EAC to derogatory publicity in answering questions. I for one vote against answering specifically Mr. Fuller's letter rather it should remain unanswered.

Draft of article for bottom ten half cents

Top 10 1803- 1804 C5

Contains article on 1804 C3

Draft of article Cohen vs. McGuigan Whist Match

Letter from Jeff Oliphant with tribute to Warren Lapp commemorating 100 issues of PW
Some thoughts on an Editor 3/7/1983 Warren A. Lapp MD is an acknowledged professional from the above title however it does not proclaim the field for which I will always be grateful which is his ability as an editor. Your services to the Early American Coppers Club Inc. as editor for 100 issues of Penny-Wise has been the labor of a person dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge. The field of US Half Cents might well be 16 years behind its present state if it were not for you. I congratulate you on this accomplishment and proclaim you to be a Mint-State 70 editor.

Draft and typed entry for "Type Says" 12/22/82

Letter to Jackson Storm dated 1/8/74 declining participation as a speaker at EAC as the 3/2-3 date is untenable. I am a CPA in public practice and I'm just up to my ears I work. I really appreciate being thought of as the person to give an educational talk or conduct a seminar on the beloved "little half sisters."

Letter from Frank Stillinger dated 3/11/83 requesting RSC to speak at EAC 1983 on May 6 at Sheraton LaGuardia. RSC agrees, draft of talk "Planchets for Half Cents 1793-1857"

Series of letters between Lapp 10/1/85 and Cohen regarding a submission for PW that was not well received. 1984 The Year of the Half Cent reviews books and writings by Breen and Bowers Cohen 8/9/85 Enclosed is my article as promised for the Sept. issue. Since I am stating my opinion in it and I do not believe I am slandering anyone nor do I feel that PW is responsible for my opinion I believe there shouldn't be too much editing required. The article may seem

somewhat negative but I have toned it down considerably. Wright, Loring, Pfeffer, and Silberman deleted large parts and thought it tarnished RSC's image. Wright wrote that Roger's article is more along the line of his not-for-publication letters- much less carefully worded than his publications. I'd not like to see this in its present form for public consumption. Those who don't already know & love Roger shouldn't form an opinion of him based on such an article. Rather than suppress it, I'd recommend you suggest a rewording &/or rearranging while still conveying the basic points he's trying to make-and he is trying to make specific points. Unflattering (but true) statements can and should be made in less baiting terms. Current sequence leaves the strong impression that the author is a cantankerous old man-which, even were it true, we don't want to do. Roger deserves much better than he has done to himself here. Silberman wrote Roger has the right to be a critic but as an author on the same subject would be better off not being so vicious. What remains of his work is pointed and/enough. By the way, he's right you know and if you talk to him, tell him so. Loring wrote As you know, in general I'm of the "print anything" school. This is an exception. I say no. I agree with you that it demeans Roger's image. Equally important to me, it's another salvo in the internecine half cent wars. I don't know how it all started, or why it burns on as it does, but I do know this: PW should have nothing more to do with it. 10/16/85 Doc You can kill the article on "1984 the Year of the Half Cent". I never realized it would cause so much flack. Besides it's nearly 1986 now.

Folder of pamphlets on EAC Club which he gave to prospective members

Also includes his EAC membership card and certificate

Folder of drafts and two articles on rarity rating updates of AHC published in PW in 1973 and 11/1977

10/7/73 If you run this article plus Milton Pfeffer's one on the 1795 CMM #2a (G-3) plus any other Half Cent articles perhaps the name of the publication should be changed to "Half Penny - Wise". I know I have really enjoyed the great increase in Half Cent articles this year. This is not to cast aspersions on the large cent material but Half Cents are my real interest. I think there is a great deal of Half Cent material that will continue to show up and I hope you will continue to publish it.

10/22/73 Enclosed is a revised text of my article. There are no changes in the table I sent you, only some grammatical changes in the text. This is mainly the workings of Tom Katman who is a school teacher. I have accepted his changes as I feel that they clarify some points which I had not made too clear in my original article.

Folder with material related to the sale of his coins through EAC and others

EAC 5/1983

EAC 3/1980 large listing of lots of coins and auction

EAC 12/1982

EAC 5/1981 larger list

1987

8/6/88

EAC 1/79

11/89 with Joe Kane

1988 Ricky Gross- purchase of large collection

Folder on “Half Penny Quiz” for Penny-Wise 7/1972

This includes his correspondence with Dr. Lapp, the quiz and answers and the answer sheets from the 13 members who sent him answers

Lapp 6/13/72 Congratulations, your quiz is wonderful. With your permission I would like to include the following item below your final lines: Editor's Note: Need the editor remind you that owning Cohen's new book AHC would go a long way towards helping you to answer the above quiz? Roger has written just as fine and interesting a book on US Half Cents as the above quiz indicates. The Editor highly recommends to all EAC members both the book and the quiz. I have been noticing the reviews which your book has been getting and all rate it most highly. You did a swell job!

Cohen 6/15/72 thanks for a first class editing job. It's ok to put your editor's note although it might be taken as free advertising.

Cohen 8/25/72 I am enclosing the answers to the Half of Penny Quiz. I am also enclosing a fill-in article on the availability of Half Cents at the recent ANA Convention. As usual you are free to edit, remove libelous statements, correct misspellings, etc.

Folder with letters on Milton Pfeffer's articles for PW,

Includes Cohen and Breen's responses.

Includes Lapp correspondence as well as the letter Cohen asked not to be published and was, as well as the data to support this

4/30/73 a three page letter from Walter Breen to Milt Pfeffer discussing his articles before they were published.

5/10/73 Cohen Thanks for Breen's comments on your article on the 1794,95,and 97 emission sequences. As you know, I have to “turn off” Half Cents from January till May due to my work. Even now I'm way behind additionally I'm having problems with employees. I'm sure you don't want to hear about these problems. It is my opinion that Dr. Lapp should run your articles just as they are of however you want to edit them. The most important thing to me is that someone is taking the trouble to get published what he thinks!! I feel grateful that perhaps my efforts have spurred someone else into action and this is what is needed!! I would like to point out however that” at best an emission sequence is an educated guess.” If you will notice page IX of my book I even had this set in italic type. Nothing in my mind stands out more than this statement. In your article on 1794 on page 4 you state “There is no logical reason to prefer one over the other. Each merely represents one solution to an intellectual puzzle.” For these reasons

I strongly support your efforts. No one can definitely say exactly what the emission sequence is although it can be established by the deterioration that one variety followed another in certain cases but there are gaps which only can be guessed at. My position on these emission sequences really has not changed from the book. However I do wish to take issue with Walter Breen in certain cases. 1795 Walter Breen and I are in complete agreement as to the presumed sequence however I take issue with some of his side comments on such items as dies remaining in presses. Just how the hell does he know this? The removal of a die from a press is a very simple operation. Perhaps Walter has a video tape taken at the Mint in 1795-96. While this statement of mine is very strong Walter's statement is the type of writing that I object to very strongly. To me it is no more than a SWAG (some wild assed guess). Walter's writing has in my opinion a great deal to be desired it has become ex cathedra in presentation and this has carried over even to his correspondence. 1797 Walter, being a little on the stubborn side, now attempts to justify this. He also does not have certain archives data that R. W. Julian has come up with which lends credence to the emission sequence set forth in my book. Also note Walter's position that the shattered die state of obverse #1 was used in 1799. This is due to his SWAG in the Coin Collector's Journal article of 1954 and as before it's difficult to admit to a published error. P.S. You can give this letter to Dr. Lapp for inclusion in PW in an unedited state if you want to.

5/17/73 Pfeffer Roger, I thank you very much for your last letter. It was a pleasure reading it and I'm sure it's going to be even more of a pleasure studying it. In the meantime, I've sent a Xerox copy to Dr. Lapp, so that the pertinent portions can be included in the next two issues of PW.

5/17/73 Pfeffer Warren I enclose a copy of Roger Cohen's letter to me of 5/10/73. This is with his permission, as you will see from his postscript. It would be great to include his comments, along with Walter Breen's, in the next two articles. Being somewhat faint-hearted, I believe a little pruning of Roger's remarks will be in order. You will see what I mean, after you have read it.

5/19/73 Cohen I enjoyed the Editor's Note and I also note that my comments were missing, accordingly I am preparing another letter which will discuss each year. I suppose that my last letter is really unfit for publication in its present form. When you get the new letter you will see that I am really saying the same things in the new letter but in a different way. I am going to try to remove any animosity towards Breen in the new letter as it really isn't the thing to do on the pages of Penny-Wise. I could write pages to justify the animosity of mine towards Breen but it would only be self-serving representations. As you may or may not know I gave Walter many chances to publish his book before I did it. This is the only justification I am going to make. Since my publication it is quite apparent that Walter has had some second thoughts. What you got from him is the sort of information that he has held very closely in his hands for years. Now that my book is out there is no reason for him to continue to hold it back. My hat goes off to you as the person who was able to get it out of him. Now that the "crack in the great wall" has occurred perhaps more will follow. However I don't look for anything too unusual. The coins themselves do the talking. If you observe them you can come up with some of the apparent

answers. Since I wrote the above the mail has brought yours of 5/17. I can see that you also have some of the reservations which are second thoughts for me. You might write or call Dr. Lapp and tell him to hold off editing my letter.

2/2/78 Pfeffer Thank you very much for your kind note of Jan. 28. You know how much I value your opinions, so you can imagine how pleased I was to read your comments! It bothers me a lot that I have not been able to meet with you more often to talk about Half Cents, but unfortunately, the demands of a busy law practice insist on their priority.

2 folders on "The Top Ten" and cc for PW

American Half Cents (advanced) Preface The concept of my books in the past has been to acquaint the reader with the basics of variety collecting. Included in both editions were a number of subjects which could have been greatly expanded on. This was not done as it would have been in my opinion confusing and unnecessarily belaboring the reader, particularly if the reader was new to the subject. This book is an attempt to move forward into more "advanced" subject matter.

1804C3 The December, 1953 issue of THE Numismatic Scrapbook magazine contained an article by Walter Breen on half cents. In this article, the discovery of new varieties since the publication of Gilbert's book in 1916 were listed. Included was a new 1804 described as having the obverse of Gilbert-6 and the reverse of Gilbert-10. The specimen so described has been obtained by Breen at the then recent MANA convention from Mr. Holmes Cessna of Cumberland, MD. In 1971, prior to the publication of AHC, there was considerable discussion between Ray Munde, Paul Munson, and me as to whether or not to include this single example as a separate variety. This example seemed to exhibit an earlier die state on the reverse than on the then known Gilbert-10 (C4). Paul Munson's position was, that regardless of where the striking fit into the emission sequence, the dies used were the same ones which were used for the die combination of the then known Gilbert-11 (C5). Therefore, the coin was merely an early die state of that variety prior to the die injuries which resulted in the spiked chin obverse. Both Ray Munde and I believed, that rather than ignoring the 18 year old "legend" that a separate die variety existed, it would be better to list it and see how other collectors would react. As of this writing, the consensus of opinion is that Paul Munson's original position was correct. Again it is my opinion that the consensus of opinion by collectors whether to recognize or ignore these three examples as a variety or merely as an early state of C4 should govern.

6/20/83 As I have told you many times I find Walter's writing to be offensive. It's a mixture of vernacular with high-brow writing. The reason is that Walter is a great apert. He does not think in an original manner rather he attempts to write his thoughts in an ex-cathedra manner but falls down as he is not original. The word use by him of impounded is one of the most offensive uses of words to me. I feel that every time he uses it he should go pound sand up his ass!!

6/20/83 to Tett Bob Schonwalter was a real surprise. He showed up at the EAC Convention in New York and played a whist match with Bob Yuell. The thing I found so interesting was the number of Williams 1950 Sale coins which he owned.

7/10/83 Tett The idea of the condition census which is of long standing is now Guth's. He wrote to me and I responded with the 1793 data I had. Subsequently as I mentioned in my last letter the input from Jim McGuigan and Del Bland has been added starting with the first 1794 article and now for the 2nd 1794 article and 1795 article your comments are added. So what is occurring is that there is a "Team" effort to publish rather than just one person's notes on the cc. There is however missing from this "team" one potential source and that's G. Jon Hanson. I have never been able to exchange information with him and doubt that he ever will with me. From your letter it seems to me that you may already have the data needed in the "Showers write-up" which you mentioned in your letter. I have never seen this and if you could send me a copy it will help. If by some chance you are not inclined to do so it's still okay but please continue to refer to it. I will not be at Ana for the 3rd year in a row. The two weeks at the beach on the Outer Banks of North Carolina conflicts. I guess it's a matter of priority but with two growing girls I do consider the activity of high priority.

11/13/83 I have gone over the article to be in PW for 11/15/83 and have numerous observations which I will set forth below. I believe this should not happen again as I have some real problems. Perhaps the best thing to do is to rerun certain varieties as a separate article. In regard to these observations will you please call or write me. General Comment 1) Jack Collins info i.e. Hanson and Breen data. If permission is received, I believe that it should be noted that WE had the greater majority of the info prior to their permission. We should indicate theirs is a small part of the body of knowledge and not a major contributor. The California "cabal" is great for "grandstanding" what they do. We should not fall into this pattern rather we should "tell it like it is". 2) if on the other hand permission is not granted we should "downplay" what they have and again "tell it like it is". If we're not careful in the future the "cabal" will say "well we gave them the data and it's really ours put out under their name". I think we've worked hard enough so as to avoid this situation and let us not fall into this trap. The California "Cabal" has done this countless times before in the past. The data you got represents the work of many persons but nowhere are any of these persons thanked or acknowledged!!

11/17/83 Dear Bill Bareford, Secondly to apologize for the mess that will appear in Penny-wise in the 11/15/83 issue in regard to the condition census. I am going to try and get in a rerun and updated in a later issue. The listing of the first 4 specimens of 1795 #1 was so screwed up by Guth I can't believe it. Despite my input he chose to rely on some crap he received from another party. He put off preparing the article for so long I didn't get a chance to go over it prior to submission. 11/22/83 reply from Bareford If Guth relied on Breen and Collins for the pedigrees shown then their book won't be worth a damn.

11/20/83 to Tett This has been a long one but before I close one more thing. The last listing in Penny-Wise 11/15/83 was a total botch. I won't bore you with the details. It's going to have to be done over and rerun. I plan to do this after the current ones are run in January and the 1797-1802 in March. You'll be getting this about Jan 15th, thus it will take until the 5/15/84 issue to get this straight.

12/2/83 Enclosed is a draft of some introductory material for our January 15, 1984 issue of PW. I feel that we MUST run something in regard to the Collins-Breen material for the following reasons. 1) I am getting questions from various collectors about what is in the Collins-Breen data. As you know you have never furnished it to me probably because Jack signed another restriction which said DON'T GIVE IT TO COHEN. The article in the 11/15/83 issue of PW implied that I was privy to this data when in fact I'm not. From the Collins-Breen standpoint this is exactly what they wanted i.e. create dissention between you and me thus causing the series to be discontinued! I plan to keep going and assume you do also, thus a stand must be made on the Collins-Breen data 2) to merely ignore the issue in the 1/15/84 PW will create further problems and we would be falling into the same pattern of PROMISES, NO PRODUCTION. Therefore I am enclosing the draft SUBJECT to your editing since you have the Collins-Breen data.

12/8/83 Letter to RSC from Lapp asking two questions from readers When will Breen book be issued? There is NO communication now between me and the person who so grandly announced another Half Cent book was going to be published. The first time was in May 1952 (see "The Numismatist" for that month) and this continues to the present moment. On a number of occasions I have verbally and by letter asked for cooperation. I have been rejected verbally and my letters have been ignored. I have come to the conclusion that this person now has nothing to be added to what has already been published on Half Cents by others. Thus eventually nothing will be published which is In keeping with the present 32 year record of promise but no production.

1/6/84 Weber I assume you wanted to receive this letter as you did not designate Ron Guth as before. Well Rabble Roger – short for Rabble Rouser Roger – who could you possibly be alluding to in your remark "shows the folly of one person assuming he knows it all". Sure beats the hell out of me. I don't know any half cent collector who wasn't anxious to share numismatic info and furthermore is always humble. Happy New Year, you old bird, you ain't gonna change. I'm beginning to develop a prejudice regarding the census project and the way I've experienced its being used. I don't have the energy or inclination to elaborate now but perhaps at the EAC we can kick back and hoist a few and discuss my concerns.

1/31/84 RSC sends to Guth revisions including info from Tett, Weber, Bland, and Jim McG that were sent to him and not Guth

2/21/84 Guth I've dropped my name down to contributing editor since you did most of the editing and I don't feel real comfortable with some of the listings. Without the other guys' notes, I am unable to make a concensus decision, so for his installment, I'll be satisfied with the new title. In the future, I'd like to return to our former arrangement unless you disagree, in which case I can continue as contributing editor. I'll be glad to help either way, but I'd like to have a little control.

4/24/84 Enclosed as promised is the next installment of the Top Ten. In the future they will be sent by me to you.

7/11/85 Lapp letter and response I had prepared an article "1984 the year of the Half Cent" and wanted to get to you for the March issue however my editorial consultants (wife Debby, Joe

Kane, Mike Packard etc.) said it needed cleaning up so I still have it. The changes are made and it should be to you within a month. This past tax season is still going on. This year is the worst to date. We had over 1290 extensions mostly on complicated returns in which the information was incredibly late due to the IRS compliance requirements. I have no sympathy for the IRS and their problems. They've created the mess and as usual the "public be damned" and everything for their administrative convenience. The release of Breen's book is probably the biggest problem I have with "The Top Ten". What I have done so far is to reconcile the coins listed to my records to what is listed in "The Big Red Book". I'm finding so much of what is in that book is BULLSHIT!! Since the data is published the Top Ten articles must by necessity deal with it. Now what do I do? Start all over again at 1793? Pick up where I left off? (1804 C6) My articles are not a searching of old catalogues but a consensus of opinion of present day Half Cent specialists on specimens seen or reliably reported. The Big Red Book condition census was drawn up by G. Jon Hanson and edited by Breen. There was input from Bland, Weber, Guth, and a few others. Weber's anger, which I'm sure you're aware of, arose from the twisting and misrepresentation of his input plus the promotion of the Hanson Collection. Be that as it may it will be necessary to review on the pages of PW the "Big Red Book's" condition census. The majority of it will be highly critical. Hopefully in a constructive way. What is your position since your announcement of no more reviews of the Big red Book in the pages of PW? Should I write an article with the help of many Half Cent persons which points out the BS in the Breen Book only to have you edit it out?

7/18/85 As for any future articles you write, my advice to you would be to ignore Hanson's half cent condition census and Breen's Big Red Book and write down your data much as you did in several preceding articles. By doing so I think that you will create not only a better image for yourself but will also continue to enhance your prestige in the field of half cents. After all, YOU are the authority, so act like one! Let those who read your articles make their own comparisons with Hanson and Breen if they wish, and let them sort out the facts from the bunkum. You will gain from it in the long run, believe me. On the other hand, if you write an article which is spiteful or vindictive, it will get you nowhere. Probably that's why your wife and Joe Kane, Mike Packard, etc. had you make those changes in the article which you plan to send to me. By ignoring Breen and Hanson, by avoiding any confrontation with them, and by omitting any references to their CC and text, you will certainly do a better job of depleting their ego and make them wonder what you are up to next. Try it and see! Likewise, I don't want to include any length harangues between opposing parties which might go on ad infinitum. This happened in the case of Breen and Hazeltorn early in the history of PW, and it tended to create a rift in EAC and it bored the members ad nauseum. I want to be as fair as possible to all parties, but you can only whip a dead horse for so long and then it becomes boresome. I feel sure that the half cent collectors in EAC and the nation look to you as the authority on half cents. You are considered the top specialist in that area!

Folder on “Asylum”

12/13/81 Dear Roger, The enclosed letter and card just came to me. A copy of my reply is also enclosed, so consider the puzzle as your meat. I got a few giggles out of your rapier-thrusts in the Asylum (both given and taker.) Both you and Collins are a bit more blunt than I’m used to seeing. Two points might be of use for future episodes (if you really intend to persist in stooping to that level)... 1). In parrying with an Editor, check your copy very carefully at different times for grammar, spelling, clarity—take all the time you need to not provide him the least chink for counterattack on anything besides your specific points. Jack blew a smokescreen around your spelling and made points without saying a word. 2). Don’t tangle directly with Walter. He’s a grand master at the use of words. By being careful you could dismantle Jack—he reacts emotionally. Not so Walter. Your friend, John Wright.

12/28/82 Dear George Kolbe, Put on your hat as an editor of “The Asylum”. I recently went over the last issue and noted a review done by a J.M. of the Swiatek-Breen book on US Commemorative Coins. Do you think he or she could review my book? I will be glad to send a review copy. I assume that no review has been done of my Second Edition for a number of reasons. I received a letter dated October 4, 1983 in regard to the N.B.S. but have heard nothing since. I have assumed that it was the intention of the editors to review both books on Half Cents simultaneously; however it’s been almost a year since my book was released. I know of the problems I getting “The Asylum” printed even before Jack’s unfortunate series of heart attacks but have assumed that the N.B.S. is going forward despite this handling. Will you please write me in regard to my request. Roger, I am no longer the editor of the “Asylum”. Have not been so for past couple of issues. I am helping with current issue, due out shortly, but expect Jack will be back at the helm for future issues. I will mention your request to him. I believe the “JM” review was sent in unsolicited. Perhaps you could have one of the knowledgeable half cent people write a review and send it to Jack. I will suggest to him that he include it in a future issue.

9/27/83 N. Neil Harris, Editor,, the Numismatist Page 1821 of the 9/83 issue of the Numismatist provided me with a good laugh. History has a way of repeating itself and I enclose a copy of a page from the May 1952 Numismatist in regard to another book to be authored. Here is is 31 years later and the book promised still is not out despite another flurry of activity about 2 years ago. The experience of Half Cent Collectors with “Breen” reference numbers has been ludicrous. Breen wrote catalogues with “Breen” numbers, but since the book was never available to the general public, no one, except a few favorites even knew what he meant. I am aware of the purpose for including such material in “The Numismatist” however in view of past history a little judicious editing seems to be in order.

Folder – Breen Satire

Some satirical material about Walter Breen including:

Still Way Out West

Breen Wins SOB Award, a cut-up and newspaper photo of Breen

a copy of and Mock-up of a 3-full page advertisement in Coin World for the Walter Breen Inner Circle Program, with a full-page photo of Breen. Apparently the letter was written by Bill Weber

A series on "Earth, 3 Months from Now" letter with Breen's published rebuttal and a Cohen letter to Numismatic News, apparently not sent

Mr. Walter Breen's recent letter to the editor in regard to the "Earth, Three Months from Now" letter is an excellent example of half-truths and distortions for which I consider to be well-noted. I received a copy of this letter from California and had a good laugh knowing many of ironic situations which were the subject of the letter. The purpose of the letter did not seem to me to discredit Mr. Breen rather it merely pointed out his consistent failure to mesmerize Half Cent numismatists into thinking Mr. Breen is the guru of the subject. Mr. Breen's letter mentioned the forthcoming "Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents. " As a Half Cent collector since 1947 I have been waiting since 1952 when Mr. Breen announced for the first time that a book on Half Cents was forthcoming. After 30 years of promises and no production Mr. Breen's statement should be taken "aim grano salis" by any person having any knowledge of the subject matter. It is Mr. Breen's concluding sentence in regard to Mr. Jack Collins unfortunate series of heart attacks that is the most despicable of all. First, Mr. Breen is not a medical doctor despite a trial at being one. Secondly, it is my understanding that Mr. Collins medical doctor had predicted that Jack would have additional attacks. Thirdly, how any person could be so inconsiderate of Jack to tread the "Earth, three months from now" letter aloud in Jack's hearing is beyond my comprehension.

A dictionary listing of Yiddish terms, the page specifically for Schnorrer which was added to Collins in several of the above letters. The definition is sponger, chiseler, moocher; a parasite, but always with brass and resourcefulness in getting money from others as though it were his right.

A group of mock-ups of AINR color add for Walter Breen's book

A group of mock-ups of AINR announcement of Walter Breen's book and their delays

A large photo of Walter Breen, courtesy of WRT Smith, taken at EAC Chicago

Folder of criticism related to Breen's book and Cohen's attempt to write critical review

Breen's Sheldon Article

30+ years is a long time, and the reviewer has waited that length of time for the above named person to publish a book on US Half Cents. There are two or three other presently active Half Cent Collectors who share this distinction with the reviewer. It is believed that these persons will share my conclusions and comments on this long-awaited publication that is referred to by the publisher in their promotional literature as a "magnum opus". This book which is quite bulky represents the efforts of a number of persons some of whose faces may be seen in its pages. Accordingly the "cast of characters" will now be presented. One will note a drawing of a

Pressman seated at a planchet-cutter. The face is that of Jack Collins who is also President of the publishing firm of some of the promotional material for the book. This reviewer is somewhat familiar with Mr. Collins through various functions of the Early American Coppers Inc. By his own admission Mr. Collins is not a collector of Half Cents rather he belongs to that group of persons who are more concerned with the promotional aspect of Numismatics which has become rather large over the last 10 years or so. At various times the reviewer has discussed with him some of his problems in the publication of this book. In addition Mr. Collins and I have had some acrimonious correspondence which he chose to publish in "The Asylum" which is the official publication of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. A Workman is seen operating the rollers. the face is Alan Meghrig who is of the family of the same name which has supplied coin collectors for many years with supplies of various types. To my knowledge he is not a known Half Cent Collector. It would appear that his role in the book is as with Jack Collins one of a promotional nature and not a great love for the subject. A workman is seen lifting planchet strips next to a drawing machine. This machine as well as the drawings of the other machines seem to have been copied from Don Taxay's "US Mint and Coinage" which was published in 1966, even though credit for this source has not been noted. It is indeed unfortunate that Mr. Taxay is no longer considered to be one of the insiders as the workman portrayed is. The face of G. Jon Hanson is seen laboring in the mint in its early days. Mr. Hanson contrary to the others portrayed happens to be a real collector of US Half Cents. His primary interest is only in "super" examples. However this creates a situation where his disdain for low-grade examples causes a noticeable lack of knowledge of all varieties of the series.

Copy of Breen's book, Draped bust section with RSC's comments written throughout 8/20/83 describes his thought process for delisting 1804c3, long letter on die varieties 8/26/83 The author has for many years been promoted as one of America's leading numismatic researchers. I for one take exception with the "promotion". Rather in my opinion Mr. Breen is a copier, a hack writer, a person trading on a puffed up image which has no basis in fact. It is my understanding that over 7500 copies of this fiasco have been printed. Copies should be available well into the 21st century despite all the promotional efforts of the financial backers. Future numismatists can look forward to probably receiving a copy as a door prize for attending their local coin club meeting or purchasing a copy tied into the sale of another book which possibly will be worth the total purchase price.

8/23/84 It is quite fortunate that Numismatists will have the benefit of both sides of a story so that they will be able, if so desired, to form an opinion of the relative merits of both Walter Breen's and Roger Cohen's books on half cents. I am not aware of any prior such situations as numismatists presently have what might be called recent "rival" books on a specialized subject. In writing this critique it should be born in mind that the author is prejudiced to his own book. However in an attempt at fair play for both present and future numismatists, I will not indulge in what could be called character assassination though the material for such a step is readily available.

Zeus recently descended from Mt. Olympus. This presence was only brief, just long enough to deliver after 30 years of promises his text on US Half Cents. He has returned to the summit and left us with a page corpus delecti. It is entitled an "Encyclopedia". It does not fit my dictionary definition of such an item. What has been left behind in an ex-cathedra manner is no more than an accumulation of logorrhea that should help any person suffering from insomnia conquer the problem. The writer of this review could be considered as a rival of Zeus in the field of US Half Cents as he has produced both a First and Second edition of a standard work on the same subject while waiting for Zeus to do more than promise. At one point in time (October 1981) both myself and other Half Cent numismatists naively thought that a joint effort could be achieved. We might as well have thought that the Half Cent was about to be coined again by the US Mint. The author is a well-known person in US numismatics. In the last 10 years or so he has been heavily promoted by his primary employer, a firm which promotes "Investment in Numismatics". Walter Breen is not a collector but a parasite that feeds off collectors. Mentions his heavy promotion by FCI. 300 words is what takes me 30

9/23/84 long letter to John Wright commenting on his review of Breen's book Where did you get the information that Breen's manuscript was completed before Cohen's second edition thus covering the anomaly in regard to rarity and condition census of the two books. 1) While Breen wrote the majority of the text including rarity, the condition census was written by G. Jon Hanson in late 1981 and edited by Breen in late 1982. 2) Breen's writing is of considerable interest. In October 1981 Breen stated that he was going to spend three weeks writing the text at Jack Collins House! It actually took him until December 1981 to complete it. Breen started with his 1966 manuscript and then compared it with my 1971 first edition. Prior to this time Breen had refused to even acknowledge the existence of my book!! His "borrowing" from my book may precipitate a lawsuit as I set traps in my books for just such an occurrence. I did this due to Breen's prior actions against Howard Hazelcorn in 1968. 3) my 2nd edition text was started in June 1981 and completed in Sept. 1981! Not January 1982! The basic reason for the anomaly of is that Breen has been out of Half Cent Collecting since the late 1960's. At that time as I understand it G. Jon Hanson acquired his half cent collection. Thus Hanson became the surrogate Breen in the Half Cent field. I even have an envelope from Ray Munde's collection which refers to "the forthcoming Breen-Hanson book on Half Cents". Hanson is known throughout the Half Cent field as "the Great Black Hole" due to his collecting activities and his refusal to share information with other collectors, who he contemptuously refers to as "the little scurrying mice". The publication of my 1st edition caught Breen and Hanson completely off guard. It also established the atmosphere of a forum for the free exchange of information. PW was and is a great help. Hanson did not participate in the free exchange of information due to his snotty attitude. Breen did not participate other than a 1973 exchange of letters prompted by Milt Pfeffer in which he came out second. What has happened is that there is a whole new group of collectors, based on my book, who offend Breen and Hanson by the use of my numbering system! They are not tied to me such as Breen and Hanson have tied collectors in the past to them. This concept was expressed by Jack Collins in Sept 1981 to a former Breen-Hanson

adherent as follows: “The publication of Breen’s book is a sides issue. You’re either on our side or Cohen’s side” I have never considered it a “sides” issue thus we have such things as a number of new collectors helping on Breen’s book, to the extent they are allowed to do so, and they have no ill will from me for doing this. I even furnished a coin for Breen’s book (for which I was not even acknowledged!) I did not volunteer anything more than what they asked for. Thus I consider what he wrote on rarity to be misleading, inconclusive, and a total botch. It will be some time before this bullshit can be put to rest. The condition census by Jon Hanson is a laugh! Breen and Hanson even contradict each other on a number of occasions. This is faulty editing of the book. Jon Hanson has covered up his lack of knowledge by listing coins from auction catalogues that have been unlocated for in some cases over 60 years. Due to his own actions he has not been informed of new discoveries! His position in being “the Great Black Hole” has made it so that very few collectors report finds to him. He is out of date and many people cannot stand his snotty attitude.

Legal notice from Jack Collins Attorney, includes letter sent to Collins that precipitated it, Breen’s Deposition in response, and Cohen’s rough draft of this letter

Folder of criticism specifically on Breen book

Includes 16 page detailed critique, a letter to WB, and a copy of the 1807 entry in Breen’s book that RSC has “edited”, and misc. notes

(will be to Raymond based on quote on page 3 “monument to author”

The basic disagreement that I have with Walter is an intellectual one. In my mind Walter is a copier, an aper, a person of low capabilities in short I perceive him to be a pseudo-intellectual. To me his authorship shows in its weird presentation of vernacular language mixed with literary words and phrases which obviously he has read or heard but which he is not able to absorb into the banal background from which he has come. It also creates other characteristics such as his unusual physical appearance and dress. It also shows itself in his inability to accept constructive criticism or acknowledge errors. One of the defensive mechanisms he has developed is the Polarization one i.e. like Jack Collins told you “you’re either on Roger Cohen’s side or you’re on our side.” Another defensive mechanism is the attempt to act as a censor of other people’s writings such as Dr. Montgomery’s article on half cent proofs. The extent of Breen’s efforts became public knowledge. See synopsis in PW by Jeff Rock, a member of “Walter’s side”. Hanson condition census, cause of deficiency is none other than Jon’s attitude toward other collectors. He is commonly referred to as “The Great Black Hole” which means if you give him information nothing is returned. In the course of the book I did receive inquiries from certain persons as to some varieties. I realized this data would probably be used, an example of this is the cc listing of 1794 C2b where I deliberately made certain errors which have shown up in the book. The pedigree information can be classified in one short phrase “a total botch”. The reason I even went to the archives was to verify what Walter had written. The next area of criticism concerns the copying of previously published material. This mainly concerns my text. What he does not say is that he has referred to my second edition and taken information from it quite

freely and carefully omitted any reference to this source. Page 11 has more examples of RSC info that he deliberately made up to see if copied.

1/24/85 letter to Breen in response to Breen's remarks to Wilkinson's review of his book in PW. Breen mentions that RSC received Xerox copies of section. RSC says received copies in May 1984, book at printer in June 1983. Copy of supplement to 1st edition attached.

Folder of Breen/Doug Winter Material

Letter from Cohen to Doug Winter 9/8/83 Discusses his Half Cent article in Steve Ivy C.V.I. Report and Cohen's disagreements, Coin World article on Winter joining Steve Ivy, and a survey by Cohen to Steve Ivy

Photocopy of Breen 1956 Manuscript from 3rd Norweb Sale (obtained 1988) printed on both sides

A second copy of Breen's 1956 manuscript, printed on one side

Copy of Breen's "Ugly Ducklings" 1966

Box 7

Auction Catalogs, Collections, and Half Cent Literature

2 copies Albert O. Woods 9/29/86 One from Gene Braig with prices realized and some buyers listed

2 fixed price lists of Half Cents by William K. Raymond, first dated 1977 and mostly coins from Willard C. Blaisdell

4 copies F. R. Alvord 6/9/24 S. H. Chapman (all photocopies) Three are copies of the same catalogue with prices realized and many buyers annotated in catalogue. One comes in an envelope labeled Brobston's Copy.

Philip M. Showers Collection, Stacks (photocopy) notes per Goldberg 2/26/76 They sold collection to Joe Flynn who broke up collection after Hanson passed!

RSC Auction 2/2/92 a copy of his auction catalog with prices realized

Coin collectors Journal Vol. 21, # 3 May-June 1954 by Walter Breen "The United States Minor Coinages 1793-1916" with comments by Cohen

C. M. Williams Collection 11/14/1950 with prices realized, Numismatic Gallery from Bareford 10/29/81

2 copies Anderson-Dupont Collection 11/1/1954 (photocopies) one is from Bareford 10/29/81 with annotations and prices realized

A copy of The Baltimore Collection, 1983

2 copies Martin Baer Collection 1989 ANA Bowers & Merena, one sent by Mike Packard (photocopies)

2 copies Hillyer Ryder 6/23/54 New Netherlands Coin Company (one original, one photocopy)

2 copies Joseph Brobston FPL 1/1963 Stack's (one original, one photocopy)

S. Q. West Collection photocopy of a list of coins in his collection

Wayte Raymond Mail Bid Sale 11/20/45 sale of Hillyer Ryder's coins

Commodore Eaton 5/7/1929 (photocopy) Henry Chapman

T. J. Clarke Collection 4/21/1956 Abe Kosoff notes Ted Naftzger's Coins, from Bareford 10/29/81 (photocopy)

Byron F Johnson 1/26/88 Bowers And Merena with Prices realized lots 62-80 letter to Bowers.

12/28/88 I wish to bring to your attention what I consider to be a cataloguing flaw. The statement "unlisted by Cohen" is not correct. This same statement appeared in the Norweb Half Cent sale back in October 1987. I am enclosing some pages from my second edition which was released in February 1982. These pages show that the 1845 first restrike is indeed "listed in Cohen." This contradiction has been noted by many persons in regard to the Norweb sale. Thus I bring the matter to your attention so that it may be corrected and not perpetuated into infinity. I am reasonably certain the "unlisted by Cohen" designation is the result of your reliance upon Walter Breen's work published in 1984. In that book, Walter ignores my second edition except in certain places.

Roger, thank you for your letter which I will share with Andrew Pollock and Michael Hodder. The clarification is very much appreciated and will be reflected in future mentions of your excellent work.

Russell Wyatt 9/30/85 Superior Galleries lots 103-214 annotated with prices and some buyers catalogued by Jack Collins insert and letter from Bill Weber

William Doyle Galleries Loe L. Lauder 12/15/83 lots 238-326 with Prices realized annotated with prices and some buyers

James A. Stack, Sr. 11/29/89 Stacks Prices Realized, bid sheet, and bid card lots 25-101 annotated with prices and some buyers

Alto Collection 12/12/70 Stacks with Prices Realized lots 513-538 annotated with prices

Herbert M. Oechsner 9/8/88 Stacks Prices Realized plus bidder card annotated with prices lots 1-30

Coin Galleries "EPA" Mail Bid 11/13/85 cataloged by Carlsson lots 1446-1588 heavily annotated includes prices realized, bid sheet, and letter from Bill Weber describing various lots

Floyd Starr 6/14/84 lots 844-893 annotated with prices and buyers includes Prices realized

Stack's 7/27/81 J. E. Braunworthy lots 1-28 with Prices Realized annotated with prices

Stack's 4/11/78 with Prices realized and bid sheet lots 24-80 annotated prices

Kagin's 1977 ANA 8/23/77 lots 129-213 scattered annotations

Coin Galleries 2/22/77 with prices realized and bid sheet lots 1-19, 430-532, 1225-26 annotated with prices

William H. Fenn III 10/9/76 Stacks with Prices Realized, bid sheet, invoice, and return of improperly cataloged lot annotated with prices lots 1-43

Stack's 9/10/75 with Prices Realized annotated with prices lots 1-18 identified as "STW"

Stack's 5/31/75 identified in catalog by Cohen as Don Partrick lots 492-553 with Prices Realized, Bid sheet, and work sheet annotated with prices

Stack's 4/3/75 with Prices Realized lots 1-16 annotated with prices

Stack's 3/15/75 Dorothy Nelson (Dorothy Paschal) lots 818-884 heavy annotations with prices, buyers, and historical data

Stack's Essex Institute 2/6/75 with Prices Realized lots 72-122 annotated with prices

Stack's Nate Smith 3/2/73 with Prices Realized and Bid Sheet lots 28-83 annotated with prices

J. J. Teaparty 8/1983 coins owned jointly by JJT and Ricky Gross

Coin Collector's Journal 2/1880 -1883 "David Proskey Half Cent"

Empire Guide to US Half Cents 1962 (photocopy)

Gilbert 1916 (without cover)

Bill Weber Article "The United States Half Cent" from CalCoin News Winter 1962 and Spring 1962

Ross Articles 1915-1916 from Numismatist and RSC letter about them 11/13/71 Dear Ray, Thanks for the Ross article. I could write pages on them but I won't. I gather this was written

up due to Gilbert's book which was first published in March 1916. Gilbert is completely silent on Ross. I wonder what really happened? Were they numismatic enemies? I like the Ross articles for certain features over Gilbert but Ross's method of presentation leaves a great deal to be desired. Had I had these articles I would have given Ross credit for being a pioneer in the field of Half Cents. Includes a conversion table made of Ross and Steigerwalt Numbers.

"Frossard and Woodward-The Great Feud" Bowers & Merena Rare Coin Review No. 57, Autumn 1985

"Early American Copper" Plates by Sheldon (removed from book)

"Penny Whimsy" Plates by Sheldon (removed from book)

CQR

7/31/87

2/15/85

9/24/83

"The Numismatist" May 1952 with cover letter from Tett thanking Frank Wilkinson for donating